



Minority Ethnic Residential Experiences and Requirements in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead Area

**A Report to Bridging
NewcastleGateshead Housing Market
Renewal Pathfinder**

June 2007

Minority Ethnic Residential Experiences and Requirements in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead Area

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We would like to make clear that this report is based on research undertaken by the authors and that the analysis and comment contained within do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Bridging NewcastleGateshead, Gateshead Council, Newcastle City Council or any other participating agencies. Of course, we accept all responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions in the text.

David Robinson, Kesia Reeve, Rionach Casey and Rosalind Goudie
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Executive Summary

1. Introduction

Why this Report is Important

This report is important because it focuses attention on a section of the local population about which little is currently known - minority ethnic households, including new immigrants - but that has much to gain from the activities of the Bridging NewcastleGateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (BNG) and its partners.

The report presents the findings of a major research project delivered by a team from the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University, which was commissioned by BNG in a bid to help sensitise the Pathfinder's activities to the needs of all groups resident within and likely to move into the BNG area. The report details the findings to emerge from a review of existing evidence and data, which was supplemented by a survey of the views and opinions of more than 100 minority ethnic people living within the BNG area. A separate strategy report details the strategic response required by BNG and others to these findings.

Research Approach

An incremental approach to the research was adopted. This involved, first of all, collecting, collating and analysing existing research evidence and data from secondary sources, including the 2001 Census of Population and local housing need and resident surveys. The research team then set about undertaking primary research, in the form of a survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area, focusing on two key gaps in current knowledge and understanding: the housing requirements, aspirations and preferences of minority ethnic households and; the situations, experiences and requirements of new immigrants. The approach centred on interviews and focus groups with more than 120 minority ethnic residents of the BNG area.

2. Introduction to the Minority Ethnic Population of the BNG Area

The Size and Profile of the Minority Ethnic Population

In 2001, 17,646 minority ethnic people were living in the BNG area, representing 9.2 per cent of the total population. In 2001, 11.0 per cent of the population in the *Newcastle BNG area* were recorded as belonging to a minority ethnic group. These 13,982 people accounted for 58 per cent of the total minority ethnic population of Newcastle. Pakistani was recorded as the largest minority ethnic grouping (3,688 people representing 26.3 per cent of the minority ethnic population of the Newcastle BNG area). In 2001, 3,664 minority ethnic people were recorded as living in the *Gateshead BNG area*, representing 5.7 per cent of the population of the area and 62.2 per cent of the total minority ethnic population of Gateshead. White Other was by far the largest minority ethnic group in the Gateshead BNG area, accounting for 43.9 per cent of the minority ethnic population (1,608 people). All other minority ethnic populations were small in comparison.

Growth of the Minority Ethnic Population

The minority ethnic population of the BNG area grew substantially between 1991 and 2001, at a time when the total population of the area fell by five per cent. The relatively rapid growth in the size of the minority ethnic population of the area reflects, in part, the young age profile of the population, which appears to have been reinforced in recent years by new immigration. This young age profile raises two important issues of immediate relevance to any discussion of housing needs. First, future years are likely to see a dramatic rise in the older population, as a result of the aging of the large cohort of minority ethnic residents currently aged between 25 and 60 years old. Second, the minority ethnic population is likely to continue to grow significantly as young people form families and have children.

Increasing Diversity Within the Minority Ethnic Population

Locally generated data and anecdotal evidence points to the increasing diversity of the minority ethnic population of Newcastle and Gateshead. Increasing diversification has been driven, in large part, by the arrival of new immigrants from a wide range of ethnic and national backgrounds. However, the data required to produce population estimates for new populations is not available. Neither is there any substantive information regarding their history of settlement in Newcastle and Gateshead, their housing situations, experiences and requirements or settlement patterns. The best that can be achieved are some fragmentary insights into the scale and nature of new immigration in Newcastle and Gateshead.

Minority Ethnic Settlement Patterns

In 2001 more than half (57.6 per cent) of Newcastle's minority ethnic population and almost two-thirds (62.2 per cent) of Gateshead's minority ethnic population lived within the BNG area. Within the BNG area the minority ethnic population was concentrated in two particular clusters. More than half (52.2 per cent) of the minority ethnic population of the *Newcastle BNG* area lived in just four adjacent wards (Elswick, Fenham, Moorside and Wingrove). In 2001 two-thirds (65.9 per cent) of the minority ethnic population of the *Gateshead BNG* area lived in just three adjacent wards (Bede, Bensham and Saltwell).

Census data reveal the settlement patterns of minority ethnic households in Newcastle and Gateshead to be in a state of flux. In particular, comparison between 1991 and 2001 Census data suggests a process of gradual dispersal from established areas of settlement. In particular, long standing groups, including the Pakistani and Indian populations, have gradually relocated into adjacent areas, such as Low Fell and Bede in Gateshead and Fenham in Newcastle. The exception to this general pattern of dispersal is the Orthodox Jewish population, whose members are bound to particular neighbourhoods where religious facilities are currently sited. Alongside the gradual dispersal of established minority ethnic populations, anecdotal evidence suggests that asylum seekers and refugee households are moving into traditional areas of minority ethnic settlement.

Socio-economic Profile

In 2001, minority ethnic people living in the BNG area were far more likely than the wider population to have an educational or vocational qualification. High levels of educational achievement, however, do not guarantee employment or representation in higher occupational/income earning classes. This was particularly true for the Pakistani and Bangladeshi populations. Some minority ethnic groups in the BNG area, however, were experiencing unemployment levels below the average for the

area and had greater representation in higher occupational classes (White Irish, White Other, Indian, Chinese).

Economic activity levels varied dramatically between minority ethnic groups, but the activity levels of all groups, other than the Indian population, were below the average for the BNG area. All minority ethnic populations, other than the White Irish population, contained a relatively small proportion of retired people. Full time employment levels were relatively low across all minority ethnic groups in the BNG area in 2001. Among the new immigrants surveyed, 10 out of 35 respondents were in employment, two being in full-time employment, four in part-time employment and four self-employed.

3. Housing Situations, Experiences and Preferences

Housing Situations

Less than half (46.1 per cent) of the BNG population were recorded as living in owner occupied accommodation in 2001, compared to 54.3 per cent of the wider population of Newcastle and 61.7 per cent of people in Gateshead. Among minority ethnic residents, however, levels of home ownership were even lower, only 43.5 per cent of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area living in owner occupied accommodation in 2001. Census data also reveals the under representation of minority ethnic groups in the social rented sector (housing association and council housing). In total, 21.2 per cent of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area (3,754 people) were living in social rented accommodation in 2001, compared to 39.1 per cent of the total population of the BNG area.

Low levels of owner occupation and social renting are reflected in relatively high levels of private renting among all minority ethnic groups. In total, 22.9 per cent of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area were living in private rented accommodation in 2001 (4,050 people), compared to 10.7 per cent of all people living in the area. Levels of private renting varied, however, between ethnic groups, with the highest levels recorded by some of the smaller populations, including Mixed Heritage groups and the Black African, Other Asian and the White Other populations. All minority ethnic groups were less likely than the wider population of the BNG area to be living in a house or bungalow and more likely to be living in flat accommodation.

Housing Conditions and Suitability

A relatively large proportion of the minority ethnic population in the BNG area are living in severe housing disadvantage, with many households living in accommodation which is inappropriate, unsuitable and which does not meet their requirements. This conclusion holds true for virtually all ethnic groups and across tenures. More than one quarter of minority ethnic households were recorded by the 2001 Census as living in deprived housing situations, compared to 13.8 per cent of all BNG households (representing 11,688 people) and 13.0 per cent of White British households. Local evidence reinforces the picture provided by the Census. It is perhaps not surprising, given levels of housing deprivation, that minority ethnic respondents often reported being dissatisfied with their current housing situation.

A key concern that emerged was overcrowding, a problem that was often linked to difficulties finding adequately sized accommodation. The high levels of overcrowding evident across virtually all minority ethnic groups resident in the BNG area reflect the fact that the neighbourhoods where minority ethnic households are clustered are characterised by terraced housing or flat accommodation, accommodation types where space is more restricted; minority ethnic households are relatively large, compared to White British households and; households are struggling to resolve their

overcrowding by moving into more appropriately sized accommodation. A second, and related concern was poor housing conditions, only half (50.9 per cent) of respondents expressing satisfaction with the state of repair of their home. Specific problems reported by respondents included damp, condensation, infestations, ineffective heating systems and poor insulation. A third problem with current housing was its relevance and appropriateness to households needs. These concerns were typically related to either cultural norms and practices or health related needs.

Housing Preferences

Home ownership was the stated tenure preference of the majority of respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area. However, social housing also emerged as relatively popular, and certainly more popular than renting privately. Social housing was found to be more attractive to certain groups, including Chinese, Czech Roma and Jewish respondents. The apparent willingness of many minority ethnic households to consider social housing is a finding of note, given the limited numbers of minority ethnic households currently resident within the sector

Understanding Housing Situations, Experiences, and Choices

The housing situations discussed above were revealed by the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area to be the consequence of a number of inter-related issues, including:

- *neighbourhood preferences and choices* – including the importance of racialised notions of space, with certain areas being considered zones of multi-culturalism and relative safety, while others are regarded as ‘no-go’ zones by many minority ethnic residents
- *affordability* – the importance of financial resources as a determinant of housing choices
- *family size and household structure* – the availability of relevant and appropriate sized, designed and located accommodation
- *access and availability* – barriers restricting access to certain opportunities.

Housing Need and Residential Mobility

It should come as no surprise, given the problems with housing conditions and suitability encountered by respondents, that two-thirds of respondents (65.7 per cent) expressed a desire to move house. Housing needs appeared to be the principal motivation for wanting to move, rather than neighbourhood factors, the vast majority of people wanting to move *within* their current neighbourhood. To move to a bigger property was the most common motivation for wanting to move. Other commonly cited reasons were also housing related issues (access to a garden, conditions, tenure). In the event, however, it appears that housing needs often lose out in the trade-off with neighbourhood preferences, people failing to move because improved housing situations are not available within preferred neighbourhoods.

4. Neighbourhood Situations, Experiences and Preferences

Neighbourhood Experiences and Satisfaction

The vast majority of respondents (81.4 per cent) expressed satisfaction with the neighbourhood where they were currently living. Levels of satisfaction were found to vary slightly, however, between the Newcastle and Gateshead parts of the BNG area, with respondents in the Newcastle area appearing more satisfied. Variation in

levels of satisfaction were also apparent between new immigrants and long-standing residents, new immigrants reporting lower levels of satisfaction.

These variations do not appear to reflect any significant difference between the two areas or between the experiences of new immigrants and long-standing residents in terms of the incidence and experience of neighbourhood problems, such as crime and anti-social behaviour or racial harassment. One reported difference between the two areas and between new immigrants and long-standing residents, however, was in the provision of community facilities and culturally relevant services, which appear to be more limited in Gateshead for all minority ethnic groups, other than the Orthodox Jewish population, and often completely absent for new immigrant groups. Asked to reflect upon the aspects of life in their neighbourhood that they value and regard positively, respondents tended to concentrate on local religious and cultural facilities and networks of kith and kin, rather than, for example, the quality and desirability of the local housing, personal safety, or the attractiveness of the local environment.

The experiences and comments of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area point to the continuing importance of the benefits of living close to people from the same ethnic group, with a shared background and language, common culture and collective understanding, to the residential settlement patterns of minority ethnic groups. This fact was reiterated when respondents were asked what they would miss most about their area if they moved elsewhere in Newcastle or Gateshead. Once again, local facilities and services and having friends and family nearby featured strongly in the their responses.

Although respondents recognised important benefits that were associated with their current area of residence, this did not mean they were not experiencing problems. Asked about what they most disliked about where they were currently living, personal safety emerged as a prime concern. Environmental issues and conditions, for example dog mess, litter, noise and the run down appearance of the area, were also of issues of concern. In some instances respondents articulated very specific geographies of concern, pointing, for example, to particular streets where they felt unsafe or detailing particular locations (street corners, cul-de-sacs and such like), where drug dealing and other anti social or criminal activities were concentrated and environmental blight was most severe. It is interesting to note that racial harassment did not emerge as a key concern when respondents were asked about what they dislike about their neighbourhood. However, when questioned specifically about racial harassment 46 respondents (43.4 per cent) reported having suffered racial harassment at least once in the past 12 months and for many respondents racial harassment and abuse was a weekly, if not daily, occurrence, with respondents explaining that *"it happens all the time"* and that they suffered such abuse *"every week, numerous times, all the time"*. It was suggested by some respondents that racial harassment – particularly verbal abuse – had increased noticeably since the events of 9/11.

Neighbourhood Preferences and Aspirations

Two-thirds (65.7 per cent) of all respondents reported that they would move house in the next two years if they were able. Asked where they would like to move, three-quarters reported that they would like to remain within their current area of residence. Analysis of these responses by ethnic group revealed a correlation between levels of commitment to current area of residence and the membership of ethnic groups known to be clustered in the neighbourhood where a respondent was resident. In addition, some respondents expressing a desire to move from their neighbourhood reported being keen to move into established areas of minority ethnic settlement. It would be wrong, however, to assume that respondents are happy to live anywhere

within these preferred neighbourhoods. Respondents living in the established minority ethnic clusters had very localised preferences, identifying parts of these neighbourhoods, particular streets and even certain sections of particular streets where they would not consider living. It would also be wrong to assume that residents do not aspire to improve their housing situations by moving elsewhere in Gateshead or Newcastle. Respondents in both Newcastle and Gateshead aspired to move to more suburban locations, in neighbourhoods which were perceived as being *“less rough, where there is less crime...where the streets are clean”*. The neighbourhoods often referred to included Fenham and Gosforth in Newcastle and Low Fell in Gateshead.

Respondents were asked whether there were any neighbourhoods where they would not live under any circumstances. Perceived levels of crime and anti-social behaviour were revealed to be preventing many respondents considering certain locations, although it is interesting to note that many respondents reported knowing little about these areas and having no direct experience of what life was like in these neighbourhoods. Rather, respondents talked about having *heard* that an area was 'rough', or that crime was rife, or that an area had a bad *reputation*.

5. Benefiting from BNG Interventions

The BNG housing market renewal programme represents a significant opportunity to counter the constraints that limit housing choice and tackle housing deprivation among the minority ethnic population. The survey of minority ethnic households in the BNG area sought to support the realisation of this potential by exploring the attitudes of minority ethnic residents to currently ongoing and planned housing market renewal activities across the Strategic Commission areas of the BNG area.

Gateshead Strategic Commissions

Discussions with the 45 respondents in Gateshead focused on the following four Strategic Commission areas: Bensham and Saltwell; Dunston; Felling Bypass Corridor; Teams. As the table below reveals, there was an overwhelming preference among respondents to live in the established area of minority ethnic settlement in Gateshead - Bensham and Saltwell - and little or no appetite for living in other Strategic Commission areas. These preferences are summarised in Table 1.

Respondents were also asked about whether they thought a series of additional interventions would increase the likelihood of them taking advantage of new housing opportunities being generated in the Gateshead BNG area. Three interventions, addressing familiar themes proved particularly popular, garnering a positive response from more than three-quarters of respondents: improved safety and security; opportunities for family and friends to move together to a new area and; opportunities to access owner occupation.

Table 1: Willingness to consider living in Gateshead Strategic Commission Areas

Strategic Commission	Yes		No		Unsure		Most common reasons for not considering
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
<i>Bensham and Saltwell</i>	41	91.1	3	6.7	1	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only three respondents reported that they would not live in Bensham and Saltwell
<i>Dunston</i>	4	3.7	35	77.8	6	13.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as lacking relevant services and facilities and being isolated from key resources available in established area of settlement perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment
<i>The Felling Bypass Corridor</i>	6	13.3	33	73.3	6	13.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> isolation less of concern than in Dunston lack of willingness to consider the area often explained with the comment that 'it is not Bensham' perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment
<i>Teams</i>	5	11.1	31	68.9	9	20.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> isolation less of concern than in Dunston lack of willingness to consider the area often explained with the comment that 'it is not Bensham' concerns raised about personal safety

Newcastle Strategic Commissions

Discussions with the 62 respondents in Newcastle focused on five areas within the four Strategic Commission areas: The Discovery Quarter; Byker and Ouseburn; Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill; Old Benwell / Benwell and Scotswood; Walker Riverside. In contrast to the situation in Gateshead, respondents in Newcastle were far more open to the possibility of living in different parts of the BNG area, although there was a clear preference for the western part of the BNG area; the established area of minority ethnic settlement in the city.

Asked whether a series of additional interventions would increase the likelihood of them taking advantage of new housing opportunities being generated in the Newcastle BNG area, the top three issues were marketing/information sharing about areas, improved public transport and information on local services and resources. The popularity of these interventions suggests that a key concern that could limit the uptake up of new housing opportunities in the Newcastle BNG area among minority ethnic residents is unfamiliarity with different neighbourhoods and concerns about

certain neighbourhoods being isolated from the facilities, social networks and services upon which people rely. This impression is reinforced by the popularity of guided tours of areas and new developments. In addition, improved safety and security and opportunities for family and friends to move together to a new area (thereby overcoming the issue of isolation) were popular interventions.

Table 2: Willingness to consider living in Newcastle Strategic Commission Areas

Strategic Commission	Yes		No		Unsure		Most common reasons for not considering
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
<i>The Discovery Quarter</i>	32	53.3	24	40.0	4	6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as being isolated from key resources available in established area of settlement
<i>Byker and Ouseburn</i>	11	18.6	40	67.8	8	13.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as lacking relevant services and facilities and being isolated from key resources in established area of settlement perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment concerns raised about personal safety
<i>Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill</i>	28	45.2	22	35.5	12	19.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> little or no consistency in responses
<i>Old Benwell / Benwell Village and Scotswood</i>	17	27.4	35	56.5	10	16.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment concerns raised about personal safety
<i>Walker Riverside</i>	12	20.0	42	70.0	6	10.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as lacking relevant services and facilities and being isolated from key resources in established area of settlement perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment

6. Group Profiles

The second part of the report provides discrete reviews of the situations, experiences, aspirations and requirements of 10 ethnic groups, as well as the new immigrant population. The content of these profiles varies, reflecting the different data (Census, survey and secondary data) available regarding each group. The profiles of Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, Orthodox Jewish, Chinese and new immigrants draw on evidence from face-to-face interviews and focus groups discussions. All other profiles draw on Census data alone.

Introduction

1.1. Why this Report is Important

Bridging NewcastleGateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder¹ (BNG) represents a significant opportunity to counter inequality and disadvantage in housing and neighbourhood choices and outcomes in Newcastle and Gateshead. This report is important because it focuses attention on a section of the local population about which little is currently known - minority ethnic households, including new immigrants - but has much to gain from the activities of BNG and its partners, given levels of housing deprivation within this section of the local population.

The report presents the findings of a major research project delivered by a team from the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University, which explored the housing situations and requirements of minority ethnic households, including new immigrants, in the BNG area. The research was commissioned by BNG in a bid to help sensitise the Pathfinder's activities to the needs of all groups resident within and likely to move into the BNG area. The report details the findings to emerge from a review of existing evidence and data, which was supplemented by a survey of the circumstances and opinions of more than 100 minority ethnic people living within the BNG area. A separate report details the strategic response required by BNG to these findings².

1.2. Research Approach

An incremental approach to the research was adopted. This involved, first of all, collecting, collating and analysing existing research evidence and data from secondary sources, including the 2001 Census of Population and local housing need and resident surveys. Anecdotal insights were also collected through discussions with local council officers (asylum team members, neighbourhood managers, housing officers and strategy officers) and housing association staff, in a bid to elucidate particular issues. The insights provided from these sources proved to be limited and sketchy, raising as many questions as they answered. In particular, available evidence rarely considered the full diversity of the minority ethnic population in Newcastle and Gateshead, largely failed to explore situations and experiences in different locations and did not recognise the dynamic situation regarding the shifting profile and settlement patterns of the minority ethnic population.

¹ In 2002 the government approved nine Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders in areas identified as in need of specific housing market renewal support. Pathfinders are partnerships made up of local authorities and other key regional and local stakeholders. Each Pathfinder has been tasked with examining the problems being experienced in their areas and deciding on the most appropriate action to revitalise the local housing market and to promote renewal within local neighbourhoods. Bridging NewcastleGateshead is one of these nine Pathfinders.

² Promoting Equality and Sustainability Through Housing Market Renewal: A Strategy for the Bridging NewcastleGateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.

Convinced that existing evidence could only provide a limited picture of the housing situations and experiences of different minority ethnic groups in the BNG area, the team set about undertaking primary research, in the form of a survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area. The objective was to fill gaps in current understanding and awareness, revealed during the review of the local evidence base and not filled during analysis of data sources. In particular, the analysis of existing data and available evidence revealed two particular gaps in the current evidence base:

- *housing requirements, aspirations and preferences* - there is little available information regarding the housing requirements, perceptions, attitudes and intentions of different minority ethnic populations resident in the BNG area and their awareness of and attitudes toward the new housing opportunities being generated through the activities of BNG and its partners
- *new immigrant housing situations, experiences, requirements, aspirations and preferences* - a major deficit in the current evidence base, which cannot be addressed through the analysis of currently available data, is the dearth of reliable information about all aspects of new immigrant housing situations, attitudes and aspirations.

The approach to filling these gaps involved marrying a commitment to sensitive and informed analysis, on the one hand, and an acknowledgement of the practical realities within which the project is being delivered, on the other. The result was a four stage process:

- *discussions with service providers and community groups* - the objective of this element of the approach was twofold. First, the team sought to collect anecdotal insight, as well as relevant evidence and data, from organisations working with or led by different minority ethnic groups. Some 25 organisations were contacted. Second, the team used certain key organisations as a means of accessing members of particular ethnic groups, who were subsequently interviewed about their housing experiences
- *research design* - a specially designed interview schedule was generated, capable of collecting factual and attitudinal information from minority ethnic respondents about their housing experiences, situations and attitudes
- *interviews and focus groups* - face-to-face interviews were undertaken with households belonging to certain key groups (the largest populations experiencing relatively high levels of housing deprivation) in the Newcastle and Gateshead cluster areas, which were identified through analysis of Census, administrative and survey data and discussions with service providers and community groups. The focus during these interviews was on understanding attitudes, aspirations and preferences and gauging opinion regarding the opportunities likely to be forthcoming as a result of current and prospective BNG activities in the area. In addition, interviews were conducted with new immigrant households from across the BNG area. Finally, four focus groups were held to provide insight into the views and opinions of number of smaller minority ethnic groups. Discussion focused on the same issues covered in face-to-face interviews, although there was inevitably less opportunity for exploring more sensitive issues in this public setting
- *data entry and analysis* - a data base was created and all information from the face-to-face interviews was coded and entered, facilitating analysis of closed questions. More qualitative data was analysed separately

The sampling framework applied during fieldwork was as follows:

- *Newcastle* - face-to-face interviews with up to 15 people from each of the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese populations and separate focus group sessions with Czech Roma and Congolese new immigrants³
- *Gateshead* - face-to-face interviews with at least 15 people from each of the Orthodox Jewish and Pakistani populations and focus groups with Bangladeshi and Southern African new immigrants
- *New Immigrants* - face-to-face interviews with at least 15 new immigrants in Newcastle and 15 new immigrants in Gateshead, living within and beyond the two cluster areas. In Newcastle, for example, efforts were made to include some new immigrants living in the East End. The emphasis during these interviews was on revealing the specifics of the new immigrant experience, as distinct from established minority ethnic household, and how BNG activities might respond to and meet unmet needs and requirements.

In total, face-to-face interviews were conducted with 107 respondents (45 in Gateshead and 62 in Newcastle), with four focus groups boosting the number of people surveyed beyond 130. Respondents were of various ages and drawn from different ethnic groups resident in the district. This sample included 35 people who were classified as new immigrants (had arrived into the UK in the last five years). Many of the interviews were conducted through interpreters, ensuring that the experiences of people with limited English language skills were included in the research. A summary profile of the 107 respondents is provided in Appendix 1.

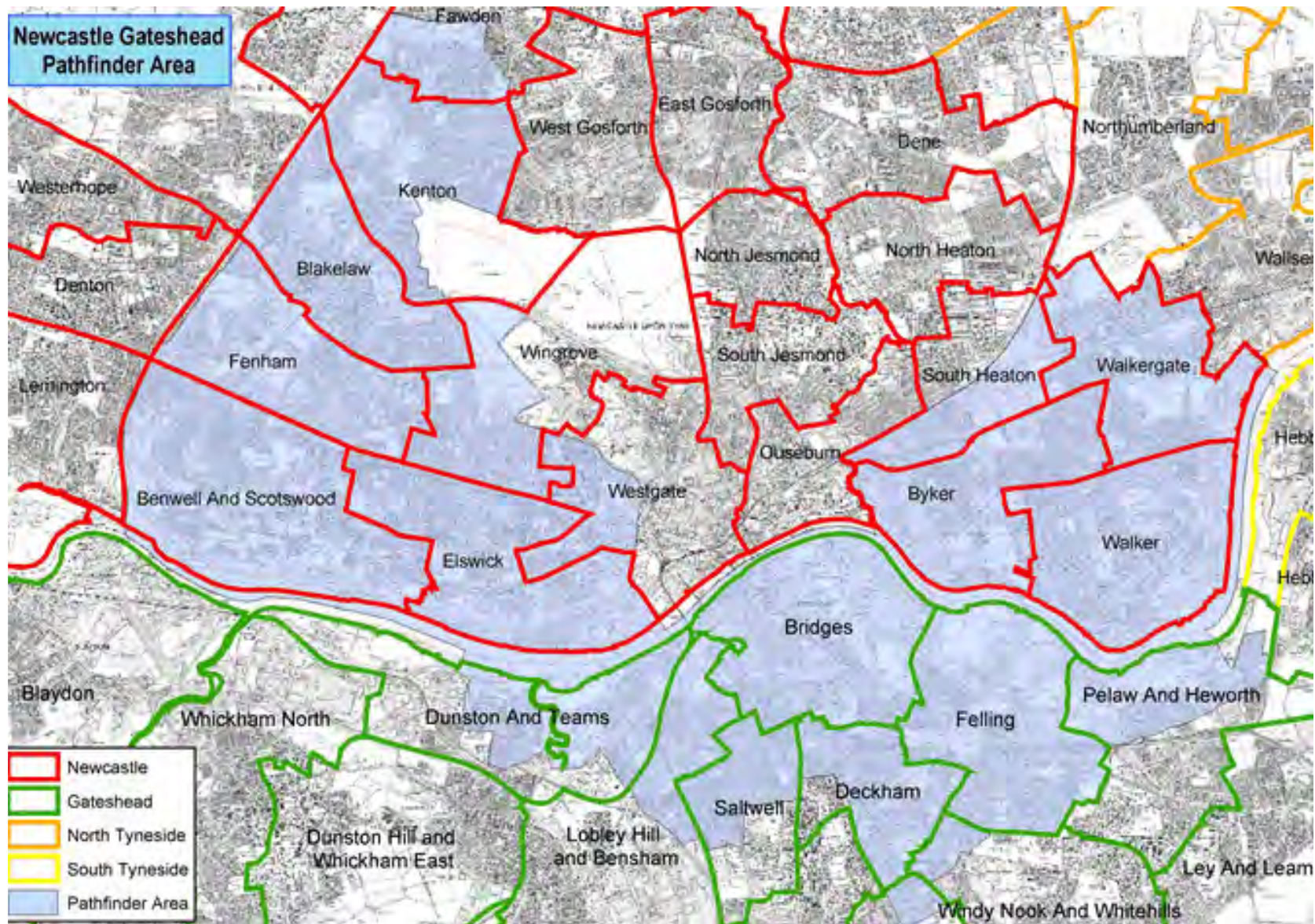
The research approach was founded on acceptance of a number of core principles regarding analysis of minority ethnic housing situations and experiences:

- venturing beyond the traditional obsession of needs surveys with how far there is a shortfall or deficit from some predetermined standard or norm, to explore experiences, perceptions and opinions
- the importance of recognising the diverse experiences, aspirations, choices and strategies of different minority ethnic groups, in order to create more inclusive and sensitive policies
- the importance of recognising that minority ethnic households are not merely passive recipients of housing opportunities, but have views, opinions and preferences that they act upon, even within the most constrained circumstances
- recognition of the ongoing importance of racial harassment in shaping the housing and neighbourhood experiences and preferences of minority ethnic households
- the importance of recognising that the preferences and choices of minority ethnic people are not only informed by their ethnic identity, but also reflect age, gender, class, geographical associations and experiences

1.3. Defining the Study Area

The Bridging NewcastleGateshead Pathfinder area (BNG area) spans 14 of the 26 Census wards⁴ in Newcastle and 10 of the 22 wards in Gateshead.

³ New immigrants are defined as people who have arrived into the UK in the last six years and who have a legal right to reside in the UK. This definition therefore includes refugees and people seeking asylum, as well as migrants from within the European Union (EU) and people from outside the EU entering the UK to work or to join family members.



The map on the previous page details the extent of the BNG area and the council wards falling within the area, as defined following the 2004 boundary changes. For the purposes of Census analysis, however, discussion focuses on the local authority wards as defined in 2001, when the last Census of Population was undertaken. The BNG area was taken to comprise 14 wards in Newcastle and eight wards in Gateshead (Table 1.1)⁵.

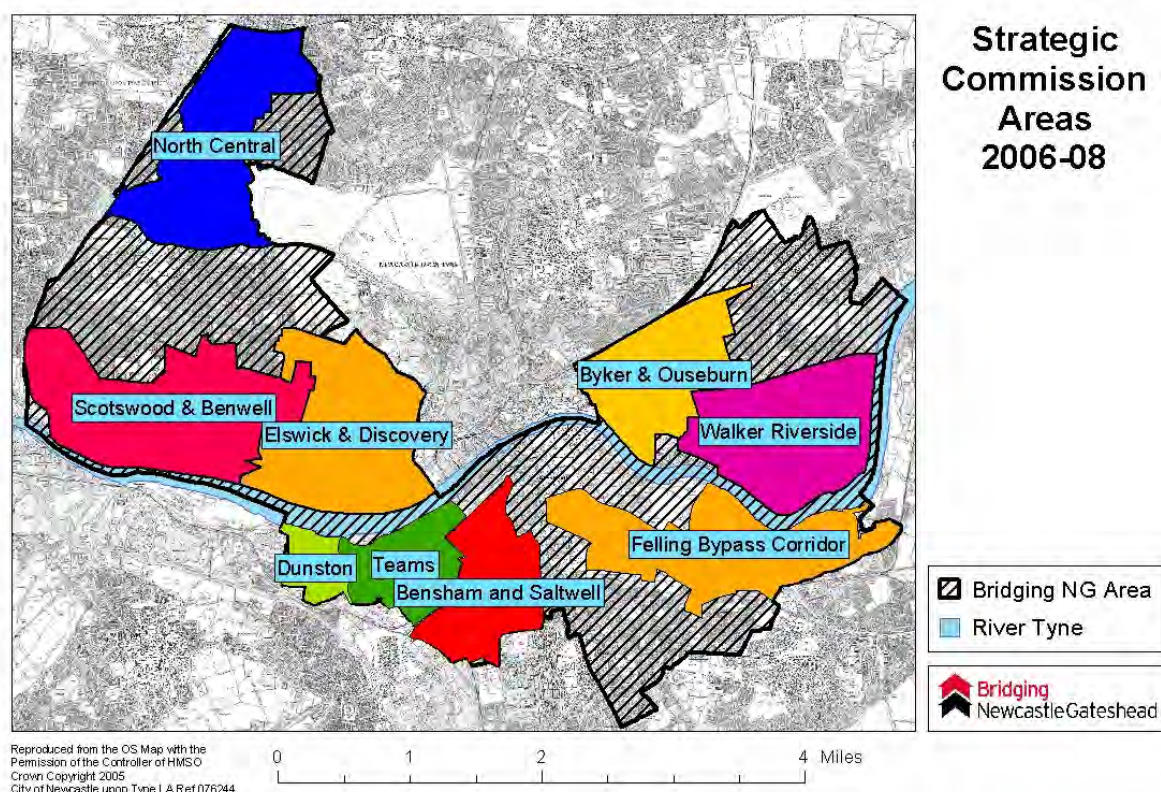
Table 1.1: Ward Definition of the BNG Area (2001)

Ward Definition of the Newcastle BNG Area	Ward Definition of the Gateshead BNG Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benwell • Blakelaw • Byker • Elswick • Fawdon • Fenham • Kenton • Monkchester • Moorside • Scotswood • Walker • Walkergate • West City • Wingrove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bede • Bensham • Deckham • Dunston • Felling • Pelaw and Heworth • Saltwell • Teams

During Census analysis, the Newcastle and Gateshead BNG areas were further divided through analysis that focused on key clusters of minority ethnic settlement. These clusters were defined as contiguous areas (groups of wards) that contained a sizeable proportion (more than 10 per cent) of the Newcastle BNG or the Gateshead BNG minority ethnic population. Through this process two distinct clusters of minority ethnic settlement were identified. In the Newcastle BNG area a distinct cluster was identified in the West of the area, comprising the wards of Elswick, Fenham, Moorside and Wingrove. This Newcastle cluster contained two-thirds of the Newcastle BNG area's minority ethnic population in 2001. In the Gateshead BNG area, the wards of Bede, Bensham and Saltwell were identified as representing a distinct settlement cluster, in 2001 containing two-thirds of the Gateshead BNG area's minority ethnic population.

During fieldwork, efforts to access minority ethnic respondents focused on the cluster areas defined during Census analysis. The majority of respondents surveyed therefore lived within these two areas. Small numbers of respondents in Newcastle, however, were resident in Byker and Walker (the Outer East Strategic Intervention areas), while in Gateshead a small number of respondents were living in areas adjacent to Bensham and Saltwell, including Low Fell. Discussion during face-to-face interviews, however, looked beyond these established areas of settlement and sought to garner views and opinions regarding eight BNG Strategic Intervention areas, located in Gateshead, the Inner West area of Newcastle and the Outer East area of Newcastle. Strategic Intervention areas are geographically defined zones of activity, where BNG has determined to focus its 2006-2008 renewal efforts.

⁵ The wards of High Fell and Leam in Gateshead were omitted because of the relatively small proportion of the housing stock in each falling within the BNG area. Less than half of all properties within the wards of Dunston, Pelaw and Heworth and Fawdon fell within the boundary. However, Dunston was included because it represents a key intervention area for the pathfinder. Fawdon and Pelaw and Heworth were included for reasons of consistency, previous analysis carried out for BNG having included these two wards in analysis.



1.4. Report Structure

The report is divided into two distinct sections:

- **Part 1** provides an overview of the significant insights and key issues to emerge from the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area and the complementary review of available evidence and data. Discussion focuses on the housing situations and preferences and the neighbourhood experiences and aspirations of minority ethnic people, before going on to explore the potential of BNG's strategic commissions to positively impact on the housing choices and opportunities of minority ethnic people resident in the BNG area. Discussion looks across the different minority ethnic groups living in the BNG area, highlighting differences and distinctions between ethnic groups
- **Part 2** offers a number of discrete reviews of the situations, experiences, aspirations and requirements of 10 of the larger ethnic groups and the new immigrant population. The content of these profiles varies, reflecting the different data (Census, survey and secondary data) available regarding each group. The profiles of Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, Orthodox Jewish, Chinese and new immigrants draw on evidence from face-to-face interviews and focus groups discussions. All other profiles draw solely on Census data

Appendix 1 provides a summary profile of the 107 minority ethnic people interviewed. In addition, a separate technical document has been produced, that provides a wealth of information and data drawn from the 2001 Census regarding the minority ethnic population at different scales of analysis (Newcastle City Council and

Gateshead Council areas; the 22 ward definition of BNG area; the 14 ward definition of the Newcastle BNG area and the 8 ward definition of the Gateshead BNG area and; the four ward definition of the Newcastle cluster and the three ward definition of the Gateshead cluster) and contains a series of maps derived from Census data detailing the settlement patterns of different ethnic groups across Newcastle and Gateshead.

PART ONE: Key Findings

The aim of this part of the report is to provide an overview of the significant insights and key issues raised by the research. Looking across the situations, requirements, preferences and aspirations of the different minority ethnic groups living within the BNG area - detailed in the discrete reports presented in Part 2 - discussion highlights the diverse situations and shared experiences found to exist within and between minority ethnic groups.

Part 1 is organised into four key headings:

- **Introduction to the Minority Ethnic Population of the BNG Area** (Chapter 2) - provides a descriptive overview of the size, profile and settlement patterns of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area. This chapter draws heavily on secondary data sources, including the 2001 Census of population
- **Housing Situations, Experiences and Preferences** (Chapter 3) - focuses on current housing situations (tenure, property type, household composition), conditions and suitability (size, design, location and layout), housing preferences and factors constrained housing choice and mobility
- **Neighbourhood Situations, Aspirations and Preferences** (Chapter 4) - focuses on attitudes and experiences regarding current area of residence and explores neighbourhood preferences and constrained choices
- **Benefiting from BNG Interventions** (Chapter 5) - explores the attitudes toward and likely response of minority ethnic residents to the new housing opportunities being created through the activities of BNG and its partners across eight Strategic Commission areas.

The aim of Part 1 is to provide an incisive précis of the key issues of relevance to BNG and its partners raised by the research. Comprehensive profiles of the different minority ethnic populations resident in the BNG area, drawing on Census data, evidence from discussions with service providers and community 'leaders' and data collected through face-to-face interviews and focus groups discussions can be found in Part 2.

Introduction to the Minority Ethnic Population of the BNG Area

2.1. Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the size, profile and settlement patterns of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area. The 2001 Census of Population represents the most robust data set available that facilitates analysis across ethnic groups, at different geographical scales and through time. The Census is therefore used to provide a baseline, which is supplemented by evidence drawn from previous studies, derived from analysis of other data sets and provided by the survey of 107 minority ethnic people undertaken as part of this study.

2.2. The Size and Profile of the Minority Ethnic Population

In 2001, 30,168 minority ethnic people⁶ were recorded as living in Newcastle and Gateshead by the Census of Population. The majority (24,277 people, or 80.4 per cent) were resident in Newcastle, where 9.4 per cent of the population were identified as belonging to a minority ethnic group and Pakistani was recorded as the largest minority ethnic population. Other relatively large minority ethnic populations (populations of over 1,000) in Newcastle in 2001 were White Other, Indian, Bangladeshi, Chinese and White Irish. In Gateshead, only 3.1 per cent of the population (5,891 people) was recorded as belonging to a minority ethnic group in 2001. White Other was the largest recorded minority ethnic group, accounting for 39 per cent of the minority ethnic population (2,292 people), and was the only minority ethnic group with a population of more than 500 people.

In 2001, 17,646 minority ethnic people were living in the BNG area, representing 9.2 per cent of the total population. Over half (59.4 per cent) of these people were reported to have been born outside the United Kingdom, although the proportion of the population born abroad varied between different ethnic groups. More than half of the Indian, Pakistani and Mixed Heritage populations were born in the UK, for example, compared to only 16.9 per cent of the Black African and 23.1 per cent of the Chinese populations.

⁶ Minority ethnic is used to refer to people of any ethnic origin other than 'White British'. People categorised in the Census of Population as White Irish and White Other are therefore included within this definition.

Table 2.1: Minority Ethnic Profiles by Area⁷

	Total population	White British population	Minority Ethnic population	Minority Ethnic (% of Total Pop)	Largest Minority Ethnic Group	Second largest Minority Ethnic Group
Newcastle	259,536	235,259	24,277	9.4	Pakistani	White Other
Gateshead	191,151	185,260	5,891	3.1	White Other	White Irish
BNG area	192,117	174,471	17,646	9.2	Pakistani	White Other
Newcastle-BNG	127,276	113,294	13,982	11.0	Pakistani	White Other
Gateshead-BNG	64,841	61,177	3,664	5.7	White Other	Pakistani
Newcastle-Cluster	40825	31610	9215	22.6	Pakistani	Bangladeshi
Gateshead Cluster	22747	20331	2416	10.6	White Other	Pakistani

In 2001, 11.0 per cent of the population in the *Newcastle BNG area* were recorded as belonging to a minority ethnic group. These 13,982 people accounted for 58 per cent of the total minority ethnic population of Newcastle. Pakistani was recorded as the largest minority ethnic grouping (3,688 people). White Other was the second largest minority ethnic population, possibly reflecting the large number of students living in the area (one-third of White Other people were recorded as students). Other relatively large minority ethnic populations were Bangladeshi (1991 people), Indian (1468 people) and Chinese (973 people). More than half (59.1 per cent) of the minority ethnic population in the Newcastle BNG area in 2001 was born outside the UK.

Table 2.2: Number of people in Newcastle BNG area, by ethnic group

	Number of people
All people	127,276
White British	113,294
Pakistani	3,688
White Other	2,190
Bangladeshi	1,991
Indian	1,468
Chinese	973
Other ethnic group	758
White Irish	704
Other Asian	474
Black African	453
White and Asian	444
Other mixed	265
White and Black Caribbean	234
White and Black African	221
Black Caribbean	73
Other Black	46

⁷ Data for all tables are taken from the 2001 Census Standard Tables, Crown Copyright 2003. Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

Table 2.3: Ethnic profile by geographical area

	White British	White Irish	White Other	White and Black Caribbean	White and Black African	White and Asian	Other mixed	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Black Caribbean	Black African	Other Black	Chinese	Other ethnic group	Total
Newcastle	90.6	0.7	1.8	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	1.2	1.9	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.5	100.0
Gateshead	96.9	0.3	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	100.0
BNG area	90.8	0.5	2.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.9	2.1	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.5	100.0
Newcastle-BNG	89.0	0.6	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.2	2.9	1.6	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.6	100.0
Gateshead-BNG	94.3	0.4	2.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.4	100.0
Newcastle-Cluster	77.4	0.8	3.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	2.0	7.0	4.2	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.1	1.4	1.1	100.0
Gateshead Cluster	89.4	0.5	5.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.8	100.0

Table 2.4: Population change by ethnic group

	BNG area			Newcastle-BNG			Gateshead BNG			Newcastle Cluster			Gateshead Cluster		
	1991	2001	% change in population	1991	2001	% change in population	1991	2001	% change in population	1991	2001	% change in population	1991	2001	% change in population
White	194,552	179,208	-7.9	126,667	116,188	-8.3	67,885	63,020	-7.2	32,003	33,255	3.9	24,206	21,754	-10.1
Indian	1,325	1,694	27.8	1,141	1,468	28.7	184	226	22.8	693	823	18.8	98	116	18.4
Pakistani	2,551	4,015	57.4	2,331	3,688	58.2	220	327	48.6	2,065	2,840	37.5	168	221	31.5
Bangladeshi	1,059	2,083	96.7	985	1,991	102.1	74	92	24.3	896	1,695	89.2	53	50	-5.7
Black Caribbean	137	103	-24.8	118	73	-38.1	19	30	57.9	51	35	-31.4	14	13	-7.1
Black African	335	592	76.7	304	453	49.0	31	139	348.4	220	228	3.6	16	84	425.0
Chinese	855	1,193	39.5	739	973	31.7	116	220	89.7	479	552	15.2	56	97	73.2
Other	1,500	3,229	115.3	1,295	2,442	88.6	205	787	283.9	846	1,397	65.1	124	412	232.3
Total	202,314	192,117	-5.0	133,580	127,276	-4.7	68,734	64,841	-5.7	37,253	40,825	9.6	24,735	22,747	-8.0

In 2001, 3,664 minority ethnic people were recorded as living in the *Gateshead BNG area*, representing 5.7 per cent of the population of the area and 62.2 per cent of the total minority ethnic population of Gateshead. As well as being smaller than the minority ethnic population in the Newcastle BNG area, the population in the Gateshead BNG area had a very different profile. White Other was by far the largest minority ethnic group in the Gateshead BNG area, accounting for 43.9 per cent of the minority ethnic population. All other minority ethnic populations were small in comparison, the largest other groups being Pakistani (8.9 per cent of the minority ethnic population), 'Other Ethnic Group' (6.7 per cent), White Irish (6.4 per cent) and Chinese (6.0 per cent).

It is not possible to draw any definitive conclusions about the composition of the White Other population in Gateshead. It might be presumed that this group contains many of the area's Orthodox Jewish population. This might well be the case, but it is important to stress that members of this population are also likely to have classified themselves as White British or of Other Ethnic Origin when completing the Census form. Indeed, of the 1,510 people recorded as Jewish in the Gateshead BNG area in 2001 (a substantial under-counting of the population according to some local people), 50.1 per cent were categorised as White British, 42.9 per cent as White Other and 5.0 per cent as Other Ethnic Group. It should also be acknowledged that many people refused to state their religion. More than half (60.2 per cent) of the minority ethnic population in the Gateshead BNG area in 2001 were born outside the UK.

Table 2.5: Number of people in Gateshead BNG area, by ethnic group

	Number of people
All people	64,841
White British	61,177
White Other	1,608
Pakistani	327
Other ethnic group	245
White Irish	235
Indian	226
Chinese	220
Black African	139
White and Black Caribbean	133
Other Asian	133
White and Asian	125
Other mixed	92
Bangladeshi	92
White and Black African	33
Black Caribbean	30
Other Black	26

2.2.1. Growth of the Minority Ethnic Population

The minority ethnic population of the BNG area grew substantially between 1991 and 2001, at a time when the total population of the area fell by 5 per cent. Employing the eight point ethnic classification (White, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean, Black African, Chinese and Other) allows comparison between data generated by the Census of Population in 1991 and in

2001⁸. During this time period the non-white minority ethnic population grew by 66 per cent, from a population of 7,762 people in 1991 to 12,909 in 2001. The White population, meanwhile, declined in size by 7.9 per cent. Population rises were recorded in all non-White minority ethnic categories during the 1990s, other than Black Caribbean. In the Newcastle BNG area the largest proportional increases were in the Bangladeshi and Other categories. In Gateshead the largest proportional increases were in the Black African, Other and Chinese categories, although the numbers involved were relatively small.

Table 2.6: Change in the (Non-White) Minority Ethnic Population (1991-2001)

	Minority Ethnic Population		
	1991	2001	% change
BNG area	7,762	12,909	66.3
Newcastle BNG area	6,913	11,088	60.4
Gateshead BNG area	849	1,821	114.5
Newcastle Cluster	5,250	7,570	44.2
Gateshead Cluster	529	993	87.7

The relatively rapid growth in the size of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area reflects, in part, the young age profile of the population. In 2001, half of the minority ethnic population (49.5 per cent) was less than 25 years old and 26.5 per cent was less than 16 years old (compared to 34.2 per cent of all people living in the area who were less than 25 years old and 20.4 per cent who were less than 16 years old). Only 5.6 per cent of the minority ethnic population were 65 years old or over, compared to 15.8 per cent of all people in the BNG area. This young age profile appears to have been reinforced in recent years by new immigration. The vast majority (30) of the 35 new immigrants surveyed during face-to-face interviewing were less than 45 years old and more than half (20) were less than 35 years old. Of course, this sample is not necessarily representative, but further evidence of the young age profile of the new immigrant population is provided by a study of Eastern European economic migrants in Newcastle, which reported that the vast majority were aged between 25 and 35 years old (Anon, undated).

This young age profile raises two important issues of immediate relevance to any discussion of housing needs. First, future years are likely to see a dramatic rise in the older population, as a result of the aging of the large cohort of minority ethnic residents currently aged between 25 and 60 years old. Large rises in the older population were witnessed in the period between 1991 and 2001 (the number of Chinese, Bangladeshi and Pakistani people aged between 65 and 74 years old more than doubled), but are likely to be even more dramatic over the next 20 years. The consequence is likely to be rising demand for specific housing types (such as sheltered housing), as well as an increasing need for adaptations to existing dwellings. Second, the minority ethnic population is likely to continue to grow significantly as young people form families and have children, although the proportion of older single person households within some minority ethnic populations - such as the White Irish population and Black groups – suggests that trends will vary between groups.

⁸ Comparing 1991 and 2001 Census data is complicated by differences in the ethnic group questions, coding and methods of treatment for under-enumeration. There are a number of approaches to comparing the data, each involving a trade-off between stability and the detail of ethnic groups. To retain as much ethnic detail as possible the eight category ethnic classification, as proposed in the document '*National Statistics: A guide to comparing 1991 and 2001 Census Ethnic Group Data*', has been adopted here.

Table 2.7: Age profile of the BNG population, by ethnicity

Ethnic Category	AGE	0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75 and over	All people
All people		20.4	13.8	34.9	10.5	4.6	8.6	7.3	192,139
White	British	19.8	12.8	34.6	11.1	4.9	9.1	7.8	174,471
	Irish	6.8	12.7	34.1	13.9	6.8	16.5	9.2	932
	Other	15.1	39.5	33.6	4.4	1.8	3.1	2.5	3,792
Mixed	White and Black Caribbean	35.3	18.6	31.3	8.5	1.6	3.2	1.6	377
	White and Black African	40.4	17.3	40.0	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.0	255
	White and Asian	39.9	22.5	33.3	1.6	0.5	1.1	1.1	564
	Other mixed	34.8	20.5	33.2	3.2	0.8	4.8	2.7	376
Asian or Asian British	Indian	23.8	19.0	42.2	6.3	3.2	4.4	1.2	1,693
	Pakistani	35.8	15.9	36.5	4.1	2.7	3.6	1.4	4,019
	Bangladeshi	40.9	18.7	33.0	2.9	1.5	2.5	0.5	2,088
	Other Asian	24.3	18.6	52.1	2.0	0.5	1.5	1.0	606
Black or Black British	Black Caribbean	15.8	12.6	52.6	3.2	3.2	0.0	12.6	95
	Black African	21.1	20.4	50.0	5.3	1.5	0.5	1.0	582
	Other Black	31.6	7.9	48.7	3.9	0.0	0.0	7.9	76
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Chinese	17.6	28.3	42.4	4.6	2.4	3.8	0.9	1,195
	Other ethnic group	23.6	18.5	52.5	4.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	1,018

In 2001, minority ethnic households in the BNG area were far more likely to contain one or more dependent children⁹ than White British households, reflecting the relatively young age profile of the population. The Census recorded a 55.4 per cent rise between 1991 and 2001 in the number of (non-White) minority ethnic households in the BNG area with children, compared to a 5.1 per cent decline among the White population. The result was that by 2001 65.4 per cent of Pakistani households, 64.4 per cent of Bangladeshi households, 46.7 per cent of Indian households and 37.5 per cent of Other Asian households contained one or more dependent children, compared to 28.0 per cent of all households in the BNG area. Population growth is likely to continue through to and beyond 2011, given the age profile of these groups. Demand for family housing is therefore set to rise, a trend that could be reinforced by the tendency of new immigrants (including asylum seekers and migrant workers) to be joined by family members once they have settled and established themselves in the UK (Robinson and Reeve, 2005). If this demand is not met, one possibility is an increase in housing deprivation and overcrowding, an issue to which we will return in Chapter 3.

Table 2.8: Households in the BNG area containing one or more dependent child

Ethnic Group		Number of households with dependent children	Households with dependent children (% of total households)
All people		23,532	27.9
White	British	21,282	27.0
	Irish	61	12.0
	Other	354	29.4
Mixed	White and Black Caribbean	39	28.1
	White and Black African	28	34.1
	White and Asian	70	39.3
	Other mixed	25	23.6
Asian or Asian British	Indian	245	46.6
	Pakistani	639	65.5
	Bangladeshi	362	76.9
	Other Asian	88	37.4
Black or Black British	Black Caribbean	6	15.4
	Black African	74	29.4
	Other Black	9	23.1
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Chinese	124	32.0
	Other ethnic group	126	40.0

2.2.2. Increasing Diversity within the Minority Ethnic Population

The Census of Population employs an ethnic categorisation insensitive to the diversity of the minority ethnic population in England. Many culturally unique and ethnically distinct populations are forced into catch-all categories, such as Black African and White Other, while other populations, such as people from the Middle East, fall into no obvious category at all. Recognising this fact, the table below attempts to list all ethnic and nationality groups known to be resident in Newcastle and Gateshead, drawing on local evidence and monitoring data¹⁰.

⁹ A child less than 16 years old or aged between 16 and 18 years of age and in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s).

¹⁰ The majority of these groups were identified in evidence relating to Newcastle.

Table 2.9: Ethnic and National populations known to be living in Newcastle and Gateshead

Afghan	Georgian	Serbian
Albanian	Greek	Sierra Leone
Algerian	Iranian	Slovakian
Anglo Hispanic	Iraqi	Somali
Angolan	Ivory Coast	Spanish
American	Italian	Sri Lankan
Belarus	Kurdish	Sudanese
Belgian	Kosovan	Swedish
Bosnian/Herzegovinian	Persian	Tanzanian
Cameroonian	Latin American	Thai
Columbian	Latvian	Togolese
Congolese	Liberian	Turkish
Croatian	Libyan	Ugandan
Czech (Roma)	Lithuanian	Zimbabwean (Black)
Dutch	Malaysian	
Eritrean	Nigerian	
Ethiopian	Polish	
Filipino	Portuguese	
French	Romanian	
Gambian	Russian	
Ghanian	Rwandan	
German		

Such wide ranging diversity within the minority ethnic population of Newcastle and Gateshead is a recent phenomenon, driven in large part by the arrival of new immigrants from a wide range of ethnic and national backgrounds. Unfortunately, a more detailed understanding of these populations is hampered by a national dearth of data regarding new immigrant populations. The data required to produce population estimates for new populations, including those moving into the BNG area in recent years - such as groups arriving into Newcastle and Gateshead as asylum seekers following the introduction of dispersal in 2001, or arriving from accession states following EU enlargement in 2004 – is not available. Neither is there any substantive information regarding the history of settlement in Newcastle and Gateshead of these groups, their housing situations, experiences and requirements or settlement patterns. The best that can be achieved are some fragmentary insights into the scale and nature of new immigration in Newcastle and Gateshead.

By the end of 2003, more than 2000 asylum seekers had been dispersed to Newcastle and Gateshead, representing 40 per cent of all asylum seekers dispersed to the North East of England (Community Safety Research Unit, 2004), while a total of 12,450 workers had registered in the North East since EU enlargement according to one source (Newcastle City Council, 2006), with another source placing this figure at 30,255 registered workers between May 2004 and December 2005 (Home Office, DWP, HM Revenue and Customs and the ODPM, 2006). Of course, it is not known how many of these people have remained in Newcastle or Gateshead and how many moved elsewhere or returned to their country of origin. The result, however, according to the council officers interviewed by the research team, has been an increase in the size and diversity of the local minority ethnic population. The Newcastle Asylum Seekers Unit (YHN, 2005b), for example, has reported working with the following groups, all of which represent relatively new populations in the city:

- Iranian
- Congolese
- Turkish
- Iraqi
- Angolan
- Eritrean
- Zimbabwean
- Czech
- Somali
- Latvian
- Ethiopian
- Afghani

The asylum team officers and neighbourhood officers in Gateshead also suggested that asylum seeker dispersal had dramatically diversified the local minority ethnic population. Statistics provided by the Gateshead Move-On Service, that works with people who have received a positive decision and want to remain in Gateshead, for example, suggests the presence of the following new groups in Gateshead (Gateshead Move-On Service, 2006):

- Iraq
- the Congo
- Eritrea
- Zimbabwe
- Syria
- Angola
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- The Ivory Coast
- Sudan
- Iran
- Russia
- Uganda
- Turkey
- Afghanistan
- Croatia Libya
- Togo
- Ethiopia
- Venezuela
- Sri Lanka
- Rwanda
- Czech Republic
- Slovakia
- Kyrgyzstan
- Guinea
- Belarus
- Macedonia
- Somalia
- Guatemala
- America

Iranian asylum seekers were reported to represent the largest single ethnic or national group dispersed to the North East of England by the NASS programme by the end of 2004, and the Newcastle Asylum Seekers Unit reported supporting more people from Iran than from any other single national group, closely followed by people from Iraq and Congo (Community safety Research Unit, 2004). Local council officers in Gateshead pointed to relatively large Iranian and Iraqi communities, as well as Portuguese speaking African communities, while the groups most commonly assisted by the Gateshead Move-on Team have been from Congo, Iraq, Angola and Iran (Gateshead Move-On Service, 2006). The highest proportion of applicants to the Workers Registration Scheme from EU accession states *nationally* are from Poland (Home Office, DWP, HM Revenue and Customs and the ODPM, 2006), chiming with the perception of local council officers in Gateshead and Newcastle that there has been a recent influx of Polish households arriving in the City to work as bus drivers, having been recruited by local employers in their country of origin.

It is important to emphasise that people dispersed to an area are not bound to remain in that location upon receiving their immigration decision. While acknowledging this point, it does appear that asylum seeker dispersal is having a long-term impact on the size and profile of the minority ethnic population in Newcastle and Gateshead. This is particularly true in Gateshead, where it has been suggested that by March 2003 approximately 1,000 asylum seekers had arrived into the district (Gateshead Council, 2003), although another source places this figure at 495 by September 2003 (Community Safety Research Unit, 2004). Whatever the precise figure, the impact of dispersal on the size and profile of the relatively small local minority ethnic population is well illustrated by figures from the Gateshead Move-On Team, which has worked with 250 individuals, representing 154 households, since its inception in 2003 (Gateshead Move-On Service, 2006). To put these various figures in context, at the time of the 2001 Census there were only 5,891 minority ethnic people resident in Gateshead.

By September 2003 Newcastle had accommodated more dispersed asylum seekers than any other town or city in the North East of England - a total of 1,640 and nearly twice as many as Sunderland, which has accepted the second highest number of dispersed asylum seekers (Community Safety Research Unit, 2004). The impact of dispersal on the size of the minority ethnic population in Newcastle is difficult to establish. As already pointed out, people do not necessarily remain in the area to which they were dispersed once granted leave to remain, while many will not be granted leave to remain. However, it is also worth pointing out that those who do receive a positive decision and stay can subsequently be joined by spouses and dependent children.

Evidence of the process of change wrought by new immigration is evident in the profile of the 107 minority ethnic people interviewed in the BNG area. The sampling framework required the inclusion of new immigrants in the interview sample. This was achieved with minimal effort and in the event a total of 35 people were interviewed who had arrived in the UK in the last five years (see Part 2 for a detailed review of the situations and experiences of new immigrants). The range of national and ethnic backgrounds within this sample of the new immigrant population - Chinese, Eastern European (including Czech Roma), African (including Eritrean, Congolese and Southern African) and Iranian and Iraqi (including Kurdish) - illustrates the increasingly diverse profile of the minority ethnic population in the BNG area. Also worth noting is the ongoing process of chain migration within established minority ethnic groups (Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Indian), whereby people come to the UK to join family.

2.3. Minority Ethnic Settlement Patterns

In 2001 more than half (57.6 per cent) of Newcastle's minority ethnic population and almost two-thirds (62.2 per cent) of Gateshead's minority ethnic population lived within the BNG area. Within the BNG area, the minority ethnic population in 2001 was concentrated in two particular clusters, one in Newcastle and one in Gateshead. More than half (52.2 per cent) of the minority ethnic population of the *Newcastle BNG* area lived in just four adjacent wards, out of 14 local government wards in the west of the area (Elswick, Fenham, Moorside and Wingrove). In 2001, the minority ethnic population of this cluster contained more than one-third (38.0 per cent) of Newcastle's minority ethnic population. At this time few minority ethnic households were resident in the BNG area to the east of Newcastle city centre (Byker/Walker).

Examining the settlement patterns of specific ethnic groups in more detail, a number of variations in this general picture in the Newcastle BNG area emerge:

- *Pakistani* – more than two-thirds of the 3,688 Pakistani people in the Newcastle BNG area (70.1 per cent) were living in the three adjacent wards of Wingrove (37.5 per cent), Elswick (16.8 per cent) and Fenham (15.8 per cent). A further 6.9 per cent was resident in the Moorside ward, with the rest of the population being dispersed across the other wards in the area
- *White Other* – this population was more dispersed than many other minority ethnic groups. This is hardly a surprising finding given that this classification does not capture a coherent group with a shared identity who might have reason to settle within a specific neighbourhood. One-third (34.6 per cent) of the 2,190 people in the Newcastle BNG area classified as White Other were recorded as living in Moorside and 11.9 per cent in the Wingrove ward. The other 43.5 per cent of the population were relatively evenly dispersed across the rest of the

Newcastle BNG area, although relatively few people were living in Walker, Walkergate or Scotswood

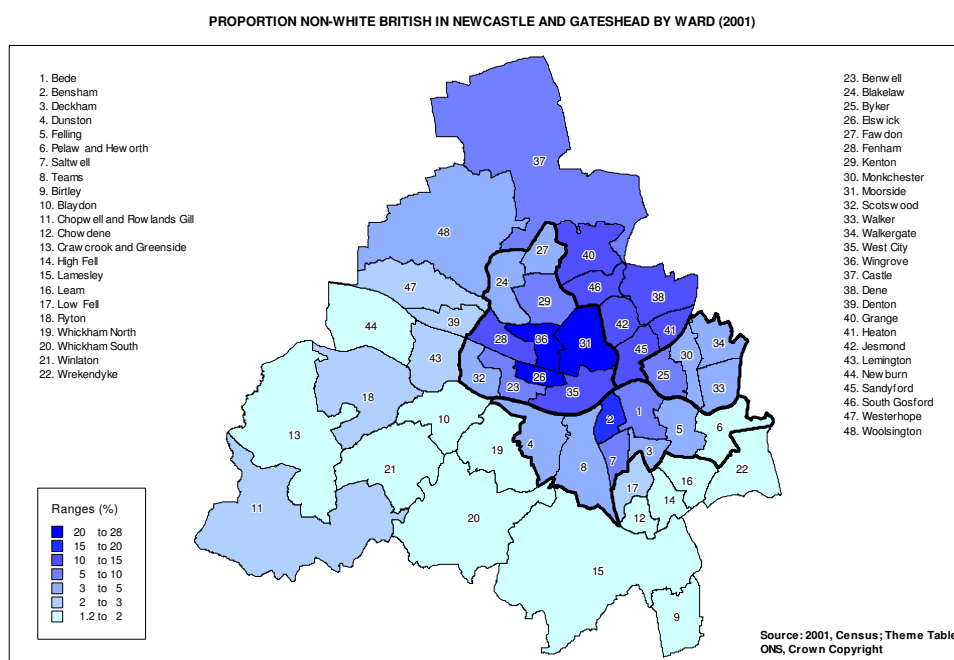
- *Bangladeshi* – more than three quarters (76.9 per cent) of the 1,991 Bangladeshi people in the Newcastle BNG area were living in three adjacent wards west of the city centre. Almost half of the population in the Newcastle BNG area (47.8 per cent) were living in Elswick, compared to 16.8 per cent of the Pakistani population and 10.4 per cent of the Indian population. Other areas of concentration were Wingrove, where 16.9 per cent of the Bangladeshi population were living, and Moorside, where 12.2 per cent were resident
- *Indian* - the Indian population was concentrated in the western side of the Newcastle BNG area, but within this area was more dispersed than many other minority ethnic populations. One in five (20.1 per cent) of the 1,468 Indian people in the Newcastle BNG area were resident in the Wingrove ward, with other concentrations including Moorside (13.2 per cent), Fenham (12.4 per cent), Kenton (11.0 per cent) and Elswick (10.4 per cent)
- *Chinese* - the Chinese population were more dispersed than many other minority ethnic groups. One-third (30.3 per cent) of the 973 Chinese people living in the Newcastle BNG area were resident in Moorside and 15.8 per cent were living in Wingrove. Other smaller concentrations included Blakelaw (9.8 per cent) and West City (9.6 per cent).

In 2001 two-thirds (65.9 per cent) of the minority ethnic population of the *Gateshead BNG* area lived in just three adjacent wards, out of the eight local government wards within the area (Bede, Bensham and Saltwell). The minority ethnic population of this cluster contained 41.0 per cent of Gateshead's minority ethnic population. Examining the settlement patterns of specific ethnic groups in more detail, however, a number of variations in this general picture in the Gateshead BNG area emerged:

- *White Other* – the White Other population is the largest minority ethnic group in the Gateshead BNG area, as recognised by the Census of Population. Over half (59.4 per cent) of the 1,608 people in this group were recorded as living in Bensham. A further 13.6 per cent of the population were living in Saltwell and 8.9 per cent in Bede
- *Pakistani* – half (50.8 per cent) of the 327 Pakistani people living in the Gateshead BNG area in 2001 were living in Saltwell. Only 5.2 per cent were living in Bensham, where the White Other population was concentrated. Other key areas of settlement were Bede (11.6 per cent) and Deckham (10.4 per cent).

All other minority ethnic groups were relatively dispersed across the Gateshead BNG area, compared to the White Other and Pakistani populations, although the largest concentration for all groups, other than for the Bangladeshi and the White Irish populations, was in Saltwell. The Orthodox Jewish community are reported to be concentrated in Bensham and Saltwell, apparently clustering in particular locations within these wards, including 'The Avenues' and the Prince Consort Road area (Social Regeneration Consultants, 2005).

Figure 2.1: Minority Ethnic Population in Newcastle & Gateshead (by Ward)



Census data reveal the settlement patterns of minority ethnic households in Newcastle and Gateshead to be in a state of flux. In particular, evidence suggests that minority ethnic households are gradually dispersing from established areas of settlement. In particular, long standing groups, including the Pakistani and Indian populations, are relocating into adjacent areas, such as Low Fell and Bede in Gateshead and Fenham in Newcastle (contrast Figures 2.2 and 2.3). Anecdotal evidence suggests that this process of dispersal is driven by younger, second and third generation people who are forming families and have the resources to buy into opportunities in the owner occupied sector, a process that parallels developments in other towns and cities in England (Ratcliffe et al., 2001; Robinson et al., 2004). The exception to this general pattern of dispersal is the Orthodox Jewish population, whose members are bound to particular neighbourhoods where religious facilities are currently sited.

Alongside the gradual dispersal of established minority ethnic populations, anecdotal evidence suggests that asylum seekers and refugee households are moving into traditional areas of minority ethnic settlement. For example, data from Newcastle City Council's refugee move-on support team reveals that Arthurs Hill is the most common destination for asylum seekers granted leave to remain and accommodated by Your Homes Newcastle (YHN). There is some evidence, however, to suggest that the restricted choices of refugees and the allocation process of YHN is resulting in a growing minority ethnic presence in parts of the Newcastle BNG area with little history of minority ethnic settlement. For example, Cruddas Park is reported to be a relatively common destination for asylum seekers granted leave to remain in the UK and accommodated by YHN. It was also reported (by asylum team staff and housing managers, and corroborated by statistics provided by the Refugee Move-on Service) that people granted leave to remain in the UK and in housing need are increasingly being accommodated in Walker and Byker, in the east of the Newcastle BNG area, both of which are areas with little or no history of minority ethnic settlement (YHN, 2005a). The beginnings of this trend appear to be evident in Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of the (Non-White) Minority Ethnic Population of the BNG Area in 1991 (by Ward)

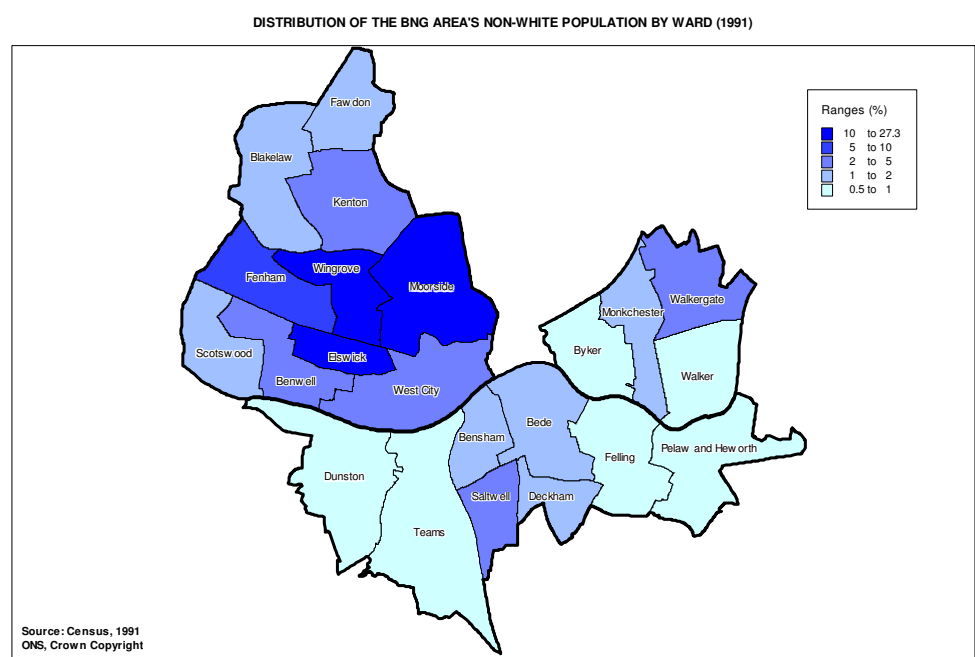


Figure 2.3: Distribution of the (Non-White) Minority Ethnic Population of the BNG Area in 2001 (by Ward)

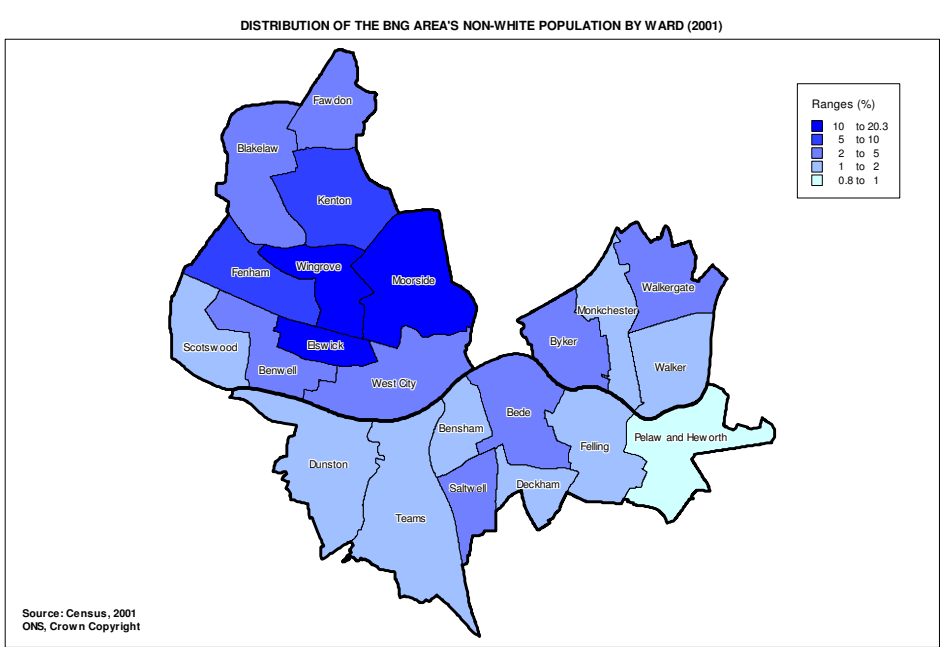


Table 2.10: Ethnic Settlement Patterns in Newcastle in 2001, by Local authority ward (BNG wards shaded)

	All people	White British	White Irish	White Other	White and Black Caribbean	White and Black African	White and Asian	Other mixed	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Black Caribbean	Black African	Other Black	Chinese	Other ethnic group
Benwell	2.8	2.9	1.8	1.5	5.6	1.7	1.5	3.0	2.7	2.1	0.8	1.6	2.3	3.3	0.0	0.6	1.7
Blakelaw	4.6	4.8	1.9	1.9	6.1	6.2	2.0	3.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.4	2.3	1.8	8.1	5.1	3.3
Byker	3.2	3.3	2.7	2.8	1.8	1.0	3.4	3.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	3.0	4.7	3.4	3.5	1.4	3.1
Elswick	3.1	2.5	2.4	3.0	5.8	4.0	5.4	5.1	4.9	12.8	36.5	6.7	0.0	4.2	0.0	2.7	6.9
Fawdon	3.8	4.1	2.2	1.5	3.0	7.7	1.6	2.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	3.1	2.0	0.0	1.9	2.6
Fenham	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.8	2.8	2.2	4.4	1.0	5.9	12.1	6.3	2.8	4.7	2.8	0.0	4.6	1.9
Kenton	3.9	4.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	1.0	5.2	1.0	5.2	3.6	2.3	3.4	4.7	6.6	0.0	3.8	1.8
Monkchester	3.2	3.4	1.3	1.0	5.6	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.2	1.0	0.0	1.9	3.5	2.0	0.6
Moorside	4.1	3.4	6.3	16.1	7.3	15.8	7.0	10.8	6.3	5.2	9.3	19.6	12.4	16.9	9.3	15.8	16.0
Scotswood	2.5	2.6	1.8	0.6	2.5	0.0	1.5	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.0	0.4	2.3	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.7
Walker	3.0	3.2	1.2	0.8	2.0	0.0	0.7	2.6	1.4	1.3	0.5	2.1	2.3	3.7	0.0	0.6	1.2
Walkergate	3.9	4.2	2.1	0.9	3.5	0.7	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.5	1.4
West City	2.4	2.4	4.8	4.3	4.1	3.0	3.7	3.0	1.4	2.2	1.3	3.3	7.8	5.7	8.1	5.0	5.5
Wingrove	4.1	3.2	5.0	5.6	6.1	9.7	9.8	6.8	9.5	28.6	12.9	9.7	10.1	6.9	20.9	6.5	8.8
Castle	4.4	4.6	3.2	2.3	2.5	4.0	3.7	4.5	4.3	0.7	0.6	7.3	2.3	1.6	4.7	1.8	3.9
Dene	6.0	5.9	6.9	5.8	3.3	7.2	5.8	6.3	8.9	5.5	5.0	7.9	7.8	6.2	3.5	10.5	8.1
Denton	3.8	4.1	2.3	1.1	1.0	2.0	1.3	0.7	1.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.0	3.0	7.0	1.0	0.5
Grange	4.6	4.5	6.2	5.0	2.5	5.4	6.3	8.7	8.7	2.7	6.5	5.3	2.3	7.5	9.3	6.5	6.1
Heaton	4.0	3.9	8.5	6.9	7.1	5.2	5.6	6.1	4.6	5.1	3.5	3.6	8.5	5.1	8.1	2.8	3.3
Jesmond	4.6	4.4	10.0	10.3	2.8	6.4	8.3	10.6	8.5	2.7	1.3	4.6	9.3	2.8	7.0	5.2	6.1
Lemington	3.9	4.2	2.9	1.0	4.3	1.5	2.0	0.9	1.3	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.4
Newburn	3.3	3.6	1.3	1.0	3.0	0.7	1.8	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.7	2.3	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.6
Sandyford	4.4	4.2	7.7	10.8	6.8	7.2	6.1	7.8	3.5	2.7	3.0	5.9	3.1	6.5	3.5	11.9	4.8
South Gosforth	4.0	3.9	7.9	6.6	3.3	5.7	6.0	5.7	6.8	1.9	1.5	3.8	7.8	3.1	3.5	3.3	9.2
Westerhope	4.9	5.3	1.8	1.3	2.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	2.6	0.4	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.6
Woolsington	3.1	3.3	0.7	1.3	2.0	0.0	2.6	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.5	1.0
Newcastle	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Newcastle (N)	259536	235259	1733	4692	398	403	912	577	3098	4842	2607	825	133	738	88	1871	1360

Table 2.11: Ethnic settlement patterns in Gateshead in 2001, by local authority ward (BNG wards shaded)

	All people	White British	White Irish	White Other	White and Black Caribbean	White and Black African	White and Asian	Other mixed	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Black Caribbean	Black African	Other Black	Chinese	Other ethnic group
Bede	3.7	3.6	5.5	6.2	7.2	3.8	6.0	7.6	4.3	7.8	2.6	11.9	5.9	12.6	20.7	15.6	13.7
Bensham	3.9	3.4	7.1	41.7	5.5	0.0	4.2	4.6	6.7	3.5	27.2	14.8	0.0	8.4	0.0	7.3	18.9
Deckham	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.1	7.2	3.8	4.9	3.6	1.8	7.0	10.5	6.3	15.7	3.7	0.0	5.4	5.6
Dunston	5.0	5.0	3.3	2.9	11.4	7.6	6.0	6.1	8.2	4.1	14.9	4.5	5.9	5.1	0.0	12.6	1.2
Felling	3.8	3.8	6.0	2.1	13.1	8.9	4.2	7.1	3.5	2.5	8.8	11.9	0.0	8.4	20.7	3.2	5.0
Pelaw and Heworth	4.2	4.2	5.5	1.0	1.3	0.0	4.6	6.1	4.7	3.5	2.6	0.0	5.9	2.8	37.9	1.6	2.2
Saltwell	4.3	4.0	6.8	9.6	3.4	13.9	9.9	5.6	12.7	34.0	14.0	22.2	19.6	18.2	0.0	3.2	22.0
Teams	4.8	4.8	4.9	3.6	7.2	3.8	4.2	6.1	4.3	4.7	0.0	4.0	5.9	5.6	10.3	10.2	7.5
Birtley	4.2	4.3	3.5	0.8	3.0	0.0	2.1	4.6	1.6	3.7	2.6	1.7	5.9	2.8	0.0	3.0	0.9
Blaydon	4.6	4.6	3.5	1.8	3.8	15.2	4.2	3.0	3.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	5.9	3.7	0.0	7.5	1.9
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	4.9	4.9	5.1	3.1	4.6	3.8	3.5	4.6	5.7	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	1.9
Chowdene	4.4	4.4	3.7	1.8	2.5	5.1	3.5	3.0	4.1	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	3.0	1.9
Crawcrook and Greenside	4.9	5.0	4.4	2.6	3.0	7.6	5.7	3.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.6	1.9
High Fell	4.2	4.3	3.1	1.4	1.3	0.0	3.5	5.1	1.4	4.1	6.1	2.3	5.9	4.7	0.0	2.7	2.5
Lamesley	4.1	4.2	1.6	1.7	1.7	3.8	2.8	3.0	2.9	0.6	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	1.9
Leam	5.2	5.3	4.4	1.7	5.5	3.8	0.0	7.1	3.5	4.7	0.0	0.0	5.9	3.3	0.0	2.2	2.2
Low Fell	5.0	5.0	6.4	3.3	3.8	0.0	4.2	7.6	3.9	3.7	0.0	5.7	11.8	4.2	0.0	2.2	2.5
Ryton	4.8	4.9	5.1	3.1	2.5	10.1	5.3	7.1	6.9	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.0	3.7	10.3	1.6	2.5
Whickham North	5.2	5.3	4.0	2.4	5.9	0.0	7.8	1.5	5.3	2.7	10.5	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	2.2	0.9
Whickham South	5.4	5.5	4.4	2.5	3.4	0.0	6.4	0.0	3.1	0.6	0.0	3.4	0.0	1.4	0.0	5.6	1.9
Winlaton	3.9	4.0	3.1	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	3.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wrekendyke	5.4	5.4	4.6	1.5	3.0	8.9	6.7	1.5	6.3	3.9	0.0	0.0	5.9	2.3	0.0	3.8	1.2
Gateshead	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gateshead (N)	191151	185260	546	2292	238	85	284	191	490	491	120	188	50	208	31	364	313

2.4. Socio-economic Profile

In 2001, minority ethnic people living in the BNG area were far more likely than the wider population to have an educational or vocational qualification. Three-quarters (73.7 per cent) of the minority ethnic population aged between 16 and 74 years old had some form of qualification, compared to 65.4 per cent of all people in the area between these ages. Some 3,689 people aged between 16 and 74 years of age - 20.9 per cent of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area - were recorded as possessing a higher level qualification, compared to 9.3 per cent of all people in the area. Relatively high levels of educational attainment were apparent within all minority ethnic groups, other than the Bangladeshi population. High levels of educational achievement, however, do not guarantee employment or representation in higher occupational/income earning classes. This was particularly true for the Pakistani and Bangladeshi populations, while evidence from beyond the BNG area suggests that many refugees are highly qualified but struggle to secure employment or are underemployed (Robinson and Reeve, 2006). Some minority ethnic groups in the BNG area, however, were experiencing unemployment levels below the average for the area and had greater representation in higher occupational classes (White Irish, White Other, Indian, Chinese).

Economic activity levels varied dramatically between minority ethnic groups, but the activity levels of all groups, other than the Indian population, were below the average for the BNG area (55.3 per cent). Within some ethnic groups, high levels of economic inactivity were explained by the relatively large proportion of students within the population - for example, 45.8 per cent of the White Other population in the BNG area were recorded as students. For other groups high levels of economic inactivity appeared to be related to relatively large proportions of the population looking after the home and/or family (23.8 per cent of the Bangladeshi population and 17.4 per cent of the Pakistani population). All minority ethnic populations, other than the White Irish population, contained a relatively small proportion of retired people.

Full time employment levels were relatively low across all minority ethnic groups in the BNG area in 2001. Even within the Indian population, where 61.8 per cent of the population were economically active, only 25.1 per cent of the population were in full-time employment, compared to 31.9 per cent of all people in the BNG area. In some groups, such as the Bangladeshi population, levels of part-time employment were relatively high, while in other groups self employment on a full- or part-time basis was relatively common (Indian and Pakistani). Among the new immigrants surveyed, 10 out of 35 respondents were in employment, two being in full-time employment, four in part-time employment and four self-employed. These were mostly economic migrants from within the EU.

Low incomes and economic disadvantage appear commonplace amongst minority ethnic households living within the BNG area. In many ways, these experiences are shared with White British residents of the BNG area. Evidence suggests, however, that minority ethnic households in the BNG area both fair worse than minority ethnic households living outside the BNG area and than other households living within the area. For example, a survey undertaken in 2003 found 61 per cent of minority ethnic households in the Newcastle Pathfinder area have an annual household income of less than £10,000, compared with 46 per cent of minority ethnic households across Newcastle City Council area (David Couttie Associates, 2004). The same study reported that only 8.1 per cent of minority ethnic households in the area have an annual income of more than £30,000,

compared to 25.8 per cent of all minority ethnic households in Newcastle. In the Gateshead BNG area, 20 per cent of minority ethnic households were found to have an annual income of between £10,000 and £12,500, compared to 13 per cent of all residents of the Gateshead BNG area (David Couttie Associates, 2003a). This situation was not constant across all groups, however. For example, less than 15 per cent of the Jewish population in Gateshead were reported to have an annual household income of less than £10,000 and one-third (32 per cent) were reported to have an annual household income of more than £30,000, compared with just 13 per cent of all residents of the Gateshead BNG area (David Couttie Associates, 2003a).

2.5. Conclusion

The minority ethnic population of the BNG area has grown rapidly in recent years, as a result of reproduction and new immigration. This trend looks set to continue for a number of years to come, given the relatively young age profile of the population. As well as continued growth in the number of households with dependent children, there is also likely to be a dramatic increase in the number of older people. Both of these trends have obvious implications for housing provision. The current socio-economic position of many minority ethnic households suggests that they will struggle to satisfy these needs by buying into the opportunities provided by the owner occupied sector. The BNG area would therefore appear to be facing a rising tide of housing deprivation among the minority ethnic population, an issue to which we now turn in Chapter 3.

Housing Situations, Experiences and Preferences

3.1. Introduction

This chapter profiles the current housing situations of minority ethnic households in the BNG area, explores the housing preferences of these households and spotlights the factors limiting the realisation of their housing aspirations. Discussion begins by providing a descriptive overview of the current housing situations of minority ethnic households in the BNG area (tenure and property type), before moving on to explore housing conditions and suitability, drawing on Census data, the local evidence base and analysis of the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area. Finally, discussion reveals and seeks to explain some of the difficulties that minority ethnic households encounter accessing adequate and appropriate accommodation.

3.2. Housing Situations

Evidence from the Census suggests racialised inequalities in access to owner occupation, with lower levels of home ownership apparent across virtually all minority ethnic groups, compared to the wider BNG population. As Table 3.1 reveals, less than half (46.1 per cent) of the BNG population were recorded as living in owner occupied accommodation in 2001, compared to 54.3 per cent of the wider population of Newcastle and 61.7 per cent of people in Gateshead. Among minority ethnic residents, however, levels of home ownership were even lower, only 43.5 per cent of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area were living in owner occupied accommodation in 2001. The only exceptions to this overall picture were the Indian (70.3 per cent owner occupation), Pakistani (68.3 per cent) and Chinese (47.6 per cent) populations, reflecting commonly reported variations in tenure situations between different minority ethnic groups (Harrison with Phillips, 2003). Only minor variations were apparent in this general picture when comparing the Newcastle and Gateshead parts of the BNG area. Levels of owner occupation were generally higher in the Gateshead BNG area than in the Newcastle BNG area. Particularly low levels of home ownership were apparent within the Chinese population of the Newcastle BNG area.

Census data also reveals the under representation of minority ethnic groups in the social rented sector (housing association and council housing). In total, 21.2 per cent of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area (3,754 people) were living in social rented accommodation in 2001, compared to 39.1 per cent of the total population of the area. Virtually all minority ethnic groups were under-represented in this sector. For example, only seven per cent of the Indian population, 11 per cent of the Pakistani population, 14.1 per cent of the Chinese population, 20.6 per cent of the White Other population and 18.2 per cent of people classified as belonging to an Other Ethnic Group were living in social rented housing in 2001. The only minority ethnic groups in the BNG area with a relatively large proportion

of the population residing in the social rented sector in 2001 were the White and Black Caribbean population (53.6 per cent) and the Other Black population (39.7 per cent). This picture was repeated in both the Newcastle and Gateshead parts of the BNG area.

Low levels of owner occupation and social renting are reflected in relatively high levels of private renting among all minority ethnic groups. In total, 22.9 per cent of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area were living in the private rented sector (PRS) in 2001 (4,050 people), compared to 10.7 per cent of all people living in the area. Levels of private renting varied, however, between ethnic groups, with the highest levels recorded by some of the smaller populations, including Mixed Heritage groups and the Black African, Other Asian, and White Other populations. Slightly higher levels of private renting were evident in the Newcastle BNG area, where 24.5 per cent of minority ethnic people were living in the PRS, compared to 10.7 per cent of all people living in the BNG area. In total, one-quarter (24.4 per cent) of all people living in the PRS in the Newcastle BNG area in 2001 were minority ethnic residents, at a time when the minority ethnic population represented only 9.4 per cent of the population.

All minority ethnic groups were less likely than the wider population of the BNG area to be living in a house or bungalow and more likely to be living in flat accommodation. Two-thirds of the BNG minority ethnic population were living in a house or bungalow in 2001, compared to 75.7 per cent of the wider population of the BNG area. This situation was repeated across all minority ethnic groups, other than the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi, which were more likely than the wider population to be living in a house or bungalow.

The vast majority of minority ethnic households were living in unshared accommodation, with the exception of the White Other and Chinese populations. Relatively large numbers of these two populations were living in communal establishments (25.3 per cent of White Other households and 10.6 per cent of Chinese households). This general picture was found to vary somewhat between the Newcastle and Gateshead parts of the BNG area. In 2001, the White Other population of the Gateshead BNG area was more likely than the White Other population of the Newcastle BNG area to be living in communal establishments, while the opposite was the case for the Chinese population. These distinctions might reflect the distribution of the relatively large numbers of students within these populations, as well as the presence of sheltered accommodation for Chinese elders in parts of the Newcastle BNG area, although available data does not allow a clear conclusion to be drawn.

Evidence of local variations in accommodation situations have also been revealed by local studies. One report, for example, has concluded that flats and maisonettes¹¹ represent the most common accommodation situation for the minority ethnic population of the Newcastle BNG area (36 per cent, the bulk of whom were in two-bedroom properties) (Anon, 2005). A separate study in the Gateshead BNG area found that just 17 per cent of households were living in flats (the majority one-bedroom), one-third, (36 per cent) were living in detached housing and 15 per cent were living in terraced housing. In contrast to this general picture, the vast majority (74 per cent) of the Jewish population of the Gateshead BNG area have been reported to be living in terraced housing (David Couttie Associates, 2003a), possibly reflecting the presence of larger terraced housing in a particular neighbourhood where the Jewish population is reported to be clustered (Social Regeneration Consultants, 2005).

¹¹ It is not clear whether this figure includes Tyneside flats.

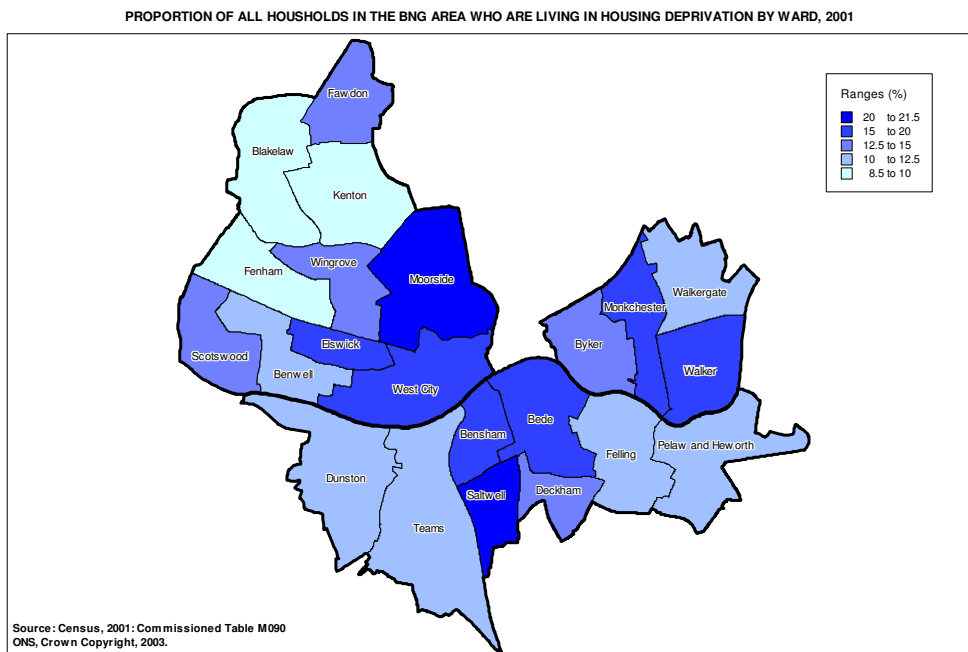
Table 3.1: Housing tenure of the BNG population in 2001, by ethnicity

	TENURE	Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
<i>All people</i>		13.6	32.5	0.4	33.1	6.0	10.7	1.2	2.6	192,138
White	British	13.7	32.7	0.4	35.0	5.9	9.4	0.9	2.0	174,471
	Irish	18.0	24.3	0.9	26.2	4.6	19.6	1.7	4.7	955
	Other	8.2	15.9	0.3	13.6	7.1	25.1	4.5	25.3	3,797
Mixed	White and Black Caribbean	5.6	24.1	0.0	40.3	13.3	14.3	0.8	1.6	377
	White and Black African	6.5	14.9	1.5	21.8	6.1	44.8	2.3	1.9	261
	White and Asian	10.4	27.2	0.0	26.3	4.2	25.0	4.3	2.6	577
	Other mixed	6.3	21.1	0.0	26.2	7.7	22.8	13.1	2.8	351
Asian or Asian British	Indian	23.7	46.6	0.6	4.5	2.5	19.0	0.6	2.5	1,699
	Pakistani	22.0	46.3	0.2	6.7	4.2	18.3	1.9	0.4	4,018
	Bangladeshi	5.8	35.8	0.1	27.6	9.5	17.5	3.6	0.0	2,087
	Other Asian	9.9	13.2	0.5	11.6	18.0	23.8	17.1	5.8	604
Black or Black British	Black Caribbean	6.3	17.7	0.0	26.0	8.3	26.0	9.4	6.3	96
	Black African	4.4	10.6	0.0	17.9	13.3	28.8	20.0	4.9	586
	Other Black	15.4	26.9	0.0	24.4	15.4	17.9	0.0	0.0	78
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Chinese	13.2	34.4	0.3	8.6	5.5	25.0	2.4	10.6	1,186
	Other ethnic group	7.4	14.5	0.0	10.8	7.4	44.6	9.5	5.7	995

3.3. Housing Conditions and Suitability

All available evidence points to one conclusion regarding the current housing situations of the minority ethnic population in the BNG area: a relatively large proportion (when compared to the situation across Gateshead and Newcastle and within the wider BNG population) are living in severe housing disadvantage, with many households living in accommodation which is inappropriate, unsuitable and which does not meet their requirements. This conclusion holds true for virtually all ethnic groups and across tenures. Official homeless returns also point to relatively high levels of homelessness among the minority ethnic population, one in five homeless presentations to Newcastle City Council between April 2005 and September 2006 being from minority ethnic people. Of course, the BNG area is a Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder area. Relatively high levels of housing deprivation might therefore be expected. The 2001 Census of population, however, reveals the situation to be far worse among the minority ethnic population than other residents of the BNG area. More than one quarter of minority ethnic households were recorded as living in deprived housing situations (accommodation that is either overcrowded, and/or is a shared dwelling, and/or does not have sole use of a bath/shower and toilet, and/or has no central heating) in 2001, compared to 13.8 per cent of all BNG households and 13.0 per cent of White British households (see Table 3.2). In other words, minority ethnic households were nearly twice as likely to experience housing deprivation as White British residents. The incidence of housing deprivation within the minority ethnic population is reflected in the geographical concentration of deprivation in areas of minority ethnic settlement, as illustrated by the map below.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of the population experiencing deprivation in the BNG area (by ward)



Relatively high levels of housing deprivation in the BNG area were apparent across all minority ethnic groups, other than the White Irish population. The

highest levels of housing deprivation were recorded amongst the Other Black (46.7 per cent), White and Black African (44.7 per cent), Other Ethnic Group (40.0 per cent), Chinese (37.8 per cent) and the Bangladeshi (37.7 per cent) populations¹². The largest *numbers* of households in housing deprivation were within the White Other (277 households), Pakistani (231 households), Bangladeshi (172 households) and Chinese populations (150 households). It is likely that the White Other group will contain at least some of Gateshead's Orthodox Jewish population.

Overall levels of housing deprivation were slightly lower in Gateshead than in Newcastle. In total, 26.5 per cent of minority ethnic households in the Newcastle BNG area were living in deprived housing situations compared with 20.7 per cent in Gateshead. However, it is possible that these figures mask the true situation in Gateshead. In particular, some of the Orthodox Jewish population of Gateshead are thought likely to have been classified as White British by the Census (see Chapter 2). The local evidence base and results from the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area point to high levels of housing deprivation (particularly with regard to overcrowding) amongst the Orthodox Jewish population in Gateshead.

Local evidence reinforces the picture provided by the Census, confirming that many minority ethnic households within the BNG area are living in inadequate and unsuitable housing situations and conditions. For example, in 2003 nearly one quarter (22 per cent) of minority ethnic households surveyed in the Newcastle BNG area reported that their current property was inadequate (David Couttie Associates, 2004), while in Gateshead in 2002 one third of the minority ethnic households surveyed reported that their housing was inadequate (David Couttie Associates, 2003a).

It is perhaps not surprising, given levels of housing deprivation, that minority ethnic households are often dissatisfied with their current housing situation. For example, one in five (20.3 per cent) of the 158 minority ethnic residents of the Newcastle New Deal for Communities (NDC) area interviewed in 2004 were reported to be dissatisfied with their current accommodation, compared to 12.4 per cent of the White British population. Many respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents also expressed dissatisfaction with their accommodation. In total, more than one-quarter (28.6 per cent) reported that they were dissatisfied with their current accommodation (12.4 per cent being very dissatisfied) and a further 9.5 per cent were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. The fact that 69 respondents (65.7 per cent) expressed a desire to move house within the next two years reinforces this picture of dissatisfaction with current accommodation.

¹² The numbers of White and Black African and Other Black people are so small that these statistics must be treated with caution.

Table 3.2: People in the BNG area living in housing deprivation in 2001, by ethnicity

Ethnic group	BNG Area		Newcastle-BNG Area		Gateshead-BNG Area	
	Number living in housing deprivation	% living in housing deprivation	Number living in housing deprivation	% living in housing deprivation	Number living in housing deprivation	% living in housing deprivation
All Households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2
White British	10,286	13.0	6,332	12.5	3,954	13.9
White Irish	58	11.0	44	11.6	14	9.5
White Other	277	22.7	216	25.6	61	16.4
White and Black Caribbean	28	19.7	13	16.5	15	23.8
White and Black African	34	41.5	34	44.7	0	0.0
White and Asian	33	20.4	27	22.3	6	14.6
Other mixed	22	18.2	10	12.8	12	27.9
Indian	81	15.5	67	15.1	14	17.5
Pakistani	231	23.5	210	23.8	21	21.2
Bangladeshi	172	36.9	166	37.7	6	23.1
Other Asian	78	33.1	57	31.7	21	37.5
Black Caribbean	12	23.5	9	25.7	3	18.8
Black African	73	29.2	60	30.8	13	23.6
Other Black	17	40.5	14	46.7	3	25.0
Chinese	150	36.6	125	37.8	25	31.6
Other ethnic group	136	40.0	104	42.1	32	34.4

3.3.1. Overcrowding

A key concern that emerged when respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area were asked about the suitability and appropriateness of their current accommodation was overcrowding, a problem that was often linked to difficulties finding adequately sized accommodation. This finding is not surprising, given the levels of overcrowding recorded by the 2001 Census, when minority ethnic households were more than twice as likely to be living in overcrowded conditions as White British residents of the BNG area. In total, 20.5 per cent of minority ethnic households in the BNG area were recorded as living in overcrowded conditions in 2001, compared to 9 per cent of all BNG households and 8.2 per cent of White British households (see table 3.3). Levels of overcrowding were lower in Gateshead than in Newcastle, but this variation likely reflects the omission of many of the district's Orthodox Jewish population from the Census analysis.

The survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area asked respondents to specify up to three things that would most improve their current housing situation. Not surprisingly, given levels of overcrowding revealed by the 2001 Census, the most common response was 'a different sized property' (48.4 per cent). In addition, among the two-thirds of respondents expressing a desire to move house, the most common reason cited for wanting to move was to secure a larger property (60.3 per cent). This was particularly true of Orthodox Jewish and Czech Roma respondents. For example, all 12 of the Jewish households and six of the eight Czech Roma respondents expressing a desire to move house said they wanted to do so in order to secure a larger property. In contrast, Chinese respondents were less likely than any other group to raise concerns about the size of their accommodation. Only three out of 13 reported that moving to a different size property was the change that would most improve their current housing situation, only two out of 11 said they wanted to move in order to secure a larger property and the vast majority (13 out of 15) reported that they were satisfied with their current accommodation. This might appear surprising given high levels of housing deprivation, including overcrowding, within the Chinese population. It was often apparent to the study team, however, that Chinese respondents who did not perceive themselves to be living in overcrowded accommodation were living in what might, by any standard definition, be classified as overcrowded situations. This included, for example, one respondent living with her partner and two children and a lodger and her child (three adults and three children) in a three bedroom flat.

Problems of overcrowding have been revealed in various other local studies, that have concluded that property size is the primary source of dissatisfaction amongst minority ethnic residents (including the Orthodox Jewish population) of the BNG area, regardless of tenure (Centre for Public Policy, 2002: David Couttie Associates, 2003a; 2004: Guinness Trust, 2004a; 2004b). Local evidence suggests this problem is more extreme in the Newcastle BNG area, where 44 per cent minority ethnic respondents reported that their current accommodation was too small, compared to 19 per cent in Gateshead (David Couttie Associates, 2003a; 2004).

Table 3.3: Overcrowded Households in the BNG area in 2001, by ethnicity

Ethnic group	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG area		Gateshead-BNG area	
	Number of households with overcrowding	% of households with overcrowding	Number of households with overcrowding	% of households with overcrowding	Number of households with overcrowding	% of households with overcrowding
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6
White British	6,493	8.2	4,410	8.7	2,083	7.3
White Irish	47	8.6	38	9.7	9	5.8
White Other	214	17.5	168	20.0	46	12.0
White and Black Caribbean	21	15.1	12	13.8	9	17.3
White and Black African	33	45.2	33	51.6	0	0.0
White and Asian	38	22.2	35	26.1	3	8.1
Other mixed	9	8.0	6	9.2	3	6.4
Indian	69	13.2	57	12.8	12	15.2
Pakistani	189	19.4	171	19.5	18	18.4
Bangladeshi	148	31.9	145	33.5	3	9.7
Other Asian	64	27.8	57	31.5	7	14.3
Black Caribbean	3	6.3	3	9.1	0	0.0
Black African	52	21.4	40	21.3	12	21.8
Other Black	7	25.0	7	31.8	0	0.0
Chinese	121	30.6	106	32.3	15	22.4
Other ethnic group	116	33.6	94	37.6	22	23.2

Particular sections of the minority ethnic population appear more likely to experience particular problems with overcrowding. Refugee households, for example, were reported by local housing officers and staff working with asylum seekers and refugees to experience high levels of overcrowding, particularly when asylum seekers are joined by family members once granted leave to remain. Initially provided with single person accommodation, and with relatively little family accommodation available in locations where they these households have often settled (for example, Central Gateshead), there can be a long wait for a transfer to a larger property. Overcrowding through 'informal' sharing amongst asylum seeker and refugee households was also reported by local officers in Gateshead, although the scale of the problem is difficult to quantify. Overcrowding was also revealed among categories of new immigrant, including migrant workers. Many of the new immigrants interviewed in the survey of the minority ethnic population of the BNG area, for example, were not refugees. Comparative analysis of the reported size of households and number of bedrooms within their current accommodation suggests that many are living in very overcrowded conditions. In total, more than half the new immigrant sample were living in one or two bedroom accommodation, with only three out of 33 living in a property with four bedrooms. However, more than half (57 per cent) of new immigrant households surveyed (26 out of 33) contained more than four members and over 17 per cent (19 out of 33) contained between six and nine household members.

It is also important to acknowledge the relationship between housing conditions and overcrowding, where poor property conditions can serve to force households into overcrowded situations within properties which appear to be of an adequate size. Overcrowding is assessed by calculating the deficit between the number of bedrooms required by a household (making certain assumptions about household members who can be expected to share a bedroom) and the number of bedrooms in the property. However, this calculation fails to incorporate any assessment of habitability. A number of households interviewed by the study team were living in accommodation that was, ostensibly, large enough but which were in such poor condition that only one or two of the rooms were habitable and available for use. This raises the possibility that many more households may be living in overcrowded conditions than indicated by the 2001 Census.

Overcrowding reflects a fundamental mismatch between the size and composition of a household (age, gender and relationship) and the size of their accommodation (number of living rooms and bedrooms). Reflecting on this basis it is possible to piece together an explanation for the high levels of overcrowding evident across virtually all minority ethnic groups resident in the BNG area. First, the neighbourhoods where minority ethnic households are clustered are characterised by terraced housing or flat accommodation (including Tyneside flats), accommodation types where space is more restricted. Second, minority ethnic households are relatively large, compared to White British households. One study, for example, reports that all mixed heritage households, all 'Asian' households and Chinese households are larger than average, with Bangladeshi and Pakistani households in the Newcastle BNG area reported to contain an average of 4.09 and 4.40 persons per household, respectively, compared to an average of 2.28 person per households across the wider population of the area (Anon, 2005). A survey of the Newcastle NDC area in 2004 reported that one-quarter (24.5 per cent) of minority ethnic households contained more than five people, compared to just 8.1 per cent of the White British population, that one-third of minority ethnic households (34.4 per cent) were couples with dependent children, compared to just 8.3 per cent of the White British population, and that one-third (31.2 per cent) were large adult households, compared to 16.1 per cent of White British households. Findings regarding household size from the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area undertaken as part of this study concur with these findings from previous

studies. Nearly half the sample (47.7 per cent representing 50 respondents) lived in households containing between five and nine people and in nearly one-third of cases respondents were living in households containing six or more members. The largest household sizes were apparent among Jewish and Bangladeshi respondents (half of Bangladeshi respondents were living in a household with six or members). The composition of households varied between ethnic groups, however, reflecting different family structures and cultural practices and social norms. For example, the larger household sizes evident amongst Orthodox Jewish respondents reflected the fact that these households tended to contain a relatively large number of dependent children. Amongst Pakistani respondents, in contrast, large households tended to be characterised by multi-generational (or extended) household structures containing more than two adults.

Overcrowding, however, is not necessarily inevitable merely because a population contains a relatively high proportion of larger households. It also reflects the inability of households to resolve their overcrowding by moving into more appropriately sized accommodation. Previous studies have revealed such accommodation to be in high demand and short supply. The Jewish community in Bensham and Saltwell, the Muslim community in Gateshead and all minority ethnic groups in Newcastle are reported to be in desperate need of larger properties (The Guinness Trust, 2004d; David Couttie Associates, 2003a: 2004; Social Regeneration Consultants, 2005). One study highlighted the need for properties with four to six bedrooms in the Newcastle NDC area (The Guinness Trust, 2004d), while another found no demand for properties with less than four bedrooms amongst Jewish households in the Gateshead BNG area that were planning to move house in the next five years (David Couttie Associates, 2003a). Similar findings emerged from the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area conducted for this study. There was virtually no demand among respondents for one or two bedroom properties, while more than two-thirds (69 per cent) of respondents reported requiring accommodation with four or more bedrooms. This was particularly true for Jewish, Pakistani and Bangladeshi respondents, many of whom reported wanting properties with between five and eight bedrooms. Czech Roma households also reported needing larger properties. In total, 19.8 per cent of respondents reported requiring five bedroom properties and 12.3 per cent reported requiring accommodation with between six and eight bedrooms.

3.3.2. Housing Conditions

A second key concern that emerged when respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area were asked about the suitability and appropriateness of their current accommodation was poor housing conditions:

- only half (50.9 per cent) of respondents expressed satisfaction with the state of repair of their home. Among the other half, 29.3 reported being dissatisfied (14.2 per cent very dissatisfied) and 19.8 per cent said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the condition of their home (see Table 3.4)
- when asked to specify up to three things that would most improve their housing situation, the second most common response (after a property of a different size) was improved property conditions (36.6 per cent)
- respondents expressing a desire to move were asked why they wished to do so and the second most common response (after moving to secure a larger property) was in order to escape poor conditions (39.7 per cent)
- respondents pointed to a series of specific problems with the condition of their homes, including damp, condensation, infestations, ineffective heating systems and poor insulation. As already mentioned, several families were only able to

occupy one or two of the rooms in their accommodation and one family of four reported sleeping in the living room because all of the bedrooms were uninhabitable. Assessing stock conditions was beyond the remit of the survey, but a separate study conducted in the Gateshead BNG area in 2002 found that minority ethnic residents were less likely to have various features, such as central heating, loft insulation, full double glazing, cavity wall insulation and draught proofing, in their accommodation (David Couttie Associates 2003a). Conditions have been revealed to be particularly poor in the private (PRS and owner occupied) sector.

Bangladeshi respondents were found to be particularly dissatisfied with the condition of their current accommodation, only four of the 22 Bangladeshi people interviewed reporting that their accommodation was in a good state of repair. The fact that the majority of Bangladeshi respondents (12 out of 22) were owner occupiers highlights an important issue: that poor property conditions are a cross-tenure problem and not solely a feature of rented accommodation. Pakistani respondents and the members of various other smaller populations also reported relatively high levels of dissatisfaction with the condition of their home. One Pakistani owner occupier, for example, reported that her family (comprising herself, her husband and two young children, both of whom suffered from health problems) all sleep in one of three bedrooms because the other two bedrooms are considered uninhabitable (given the impact of occupation on the health of her two children) and were too expensive to repair and renovate.

Relatively few Orthodox Jewish respondents reported being dissatisfied with their current accommodation, a finding that contrasts with anecdotal evidence provided by local council officers and community leaders. However, it appears that, rather than living in conditions that might be objectively quantified as 'desirable' or 'satisfactory', respondents were more concerned about the issue of overcrowding and the need to access larger accommodation.

Table 3.4: Levels of satisfaction with the state of repair of respondents home

		Satisfied		Neither/ Nor	Dissatisfied		Total
		Very	Fairly		Fairly	Very	
Bangladeshi	Number	1	3	7	7	4	22
	%	4.5	13.6	31.8	31.8	18.2	100.0
Jewish	Number	2	7	3	1	1	14
	%	14.3	50.0	21.4	7.1	7.1	100.0
Pakistani	Number	8	9	2	5	5	29
	%	27.6	31.0	6.9	17.2	17.2	100.0
Chinese	Number	2	7	4	1	1	15
	%	13.3	46.7	26.7	6.7	6.7	100.0
Czech Roma	Number	2	2	3	0	1	8
	%	25.0	25.0	37.5	0.0	12.5	100.0
Indian	Number	2	2	2	1	0	7
	%	28.6	28.6	28.6	14.3	0.0	100.0
Other	Number	4	3	0	1	3	11
	%	36.4	27.3	0.0	9.1	27.3	100.0
Total	Number	21	33	21	16	15	106
	%	19.8	31.1	19.8	15.1	14.2	100.0

3.3.3. Unsuitable Accommodation

In addition to the problems of overcrowding and housing conditions, respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area reported problems regarding the relevance and appropriateness of current accommodation. These concerns were typically related to either cultural norms and practices or health related needs. Reported problems included:

- properties which were not adapted to accommodate household members with poor health, disabilities and mobility problems
- properties which did not meet respondents' cultural or religious requirements
- housing that respondents considered to be unsuitable for families, for example, lacking a garden or play area. In total, 41.1 per cent of respondents expressing a desire to move house reported that they wanted to do so in order to secure a property with a garden or with a larger garden (reflecting the large number of surveyed households with dependent children and the concentration of households in part of the BNG area in housing stock with small gardens or back yards).

In total, 11.8 per cent of respondents reported that their properties required adaptations. A common requirement among these respondents was the need for facilities (including bedrooms and washing and toilet facilities) on the ground floor:

"We need a toilet downstairs. He has knee-joint problems which mean his mobility is restricted".

"We need a shower downstairs because he has arthritis. We have a toilet downstairs but there isn't room for a shower at the moment."

Such needs reflect the fact that 40.2 per cent of households surveyed had at least one member with a long-term health problem, illness or disability which limited their daily activities, a very high proportion considering the young age profile of the minority ethnic population. Not all of these will require adapted accommodation (for example downstairs bathrooms, toilets, hand rails, ramps and so on) or housing of a particular type (such as bungalow accommodation) but it points to an unmet need for specialist or adapted properties, which is only likely to rise as the population ages.

The experiences of one particular family (reported in the Pakistani profile in Part 2), comprising a young couple, their two children and the husband's elderly parents, illustrate the difficulties that some minority ethnic households encounter. This family were using one of their reception rooms as a bedroom, because their elderly father had mobility difficulties that prevented him from climbing stairs and needed to sleep on the same floor as the bathroom (on the ground floor). The family reported that they could not afford to install a second toilet and shower and had tried and failed on a number of occasions to obtain grants for adaptations. The consequence, however, was that the family was without the two reception rooms that cultural norms and standards required, allowing women and men to socialise separately.

Respondents highlighted a range of cultural or religious requirements that, in many cases, could not be accommodated within their current housing situation. These included:

- two reception rooms so that men and women can occupy separate living spaces (13 Pakistani respondents, nine Bangladeshi respondents, one Eritrean, one Kurdish and one Indian respondent raised this point)

- a small room which can serve as a prayer room (9 Pakistani respondents, six Bangladeshi respondents, one Eritrean and two Indian respondents)
- space in the property for a Tabernacle (eight Jewish respondents)
- kitchens which enable households to comply with Kosher cooking practices, for example, by being large enough to accommodate two sinks, cookers and workspaces to separate different food types (six Jewish respondents)
- adequate ventilation and provision of gas cooking facilities (one Chinese respondent)
- a Sukkas conservatory (two Jewish respondents).

3.4. Housing Preferences

Home ownership was the stated tenure preference of the majority of respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area, 79.2 per cent referring to home ownership when asked what was their 'ideal' housing situation. However, social housing also emerged as relatively popular, and certainly more popular than renting privately:

- 11.7 per cent of respondents reported that the social rented sector represented their 'ideal' tenure
- 49.2 per cent of Newcastle respondents said they would consider renting (unfurnished) from Your Homes Newcastle if they moved
- 48.6 per cent of Gateshead respondents said they would consider renting (unfurnished) from Gateshead Housing Company if they moved
- 43 per cent of respondents expressed a willingness to consider renting from a housing association.

Social housing was found to be more attractive to certain groups, including Chinese, Czech Roma and Jewish respondents (Table 3.6):

- only 3 Chinese respondents said they would not consider renting from Your Homes Newcastle if they moved¹³ and the same number said they would consider renting from a housing association
- 5 out of 8 Czech Roma respondents (62.5 per cent) said they would consider renting from Your Homes Newcastle. The housing association sector was less popular amongst Czech Romas, only 3 of whom said they would consider living in this tenure
- the housing association sector was particularly popular amongst Jewish respondents, 10 out of 12 reporting that they would consider the sector. Renting from Gateshead Housing Company was also relatively popular, with 54.5 per cent of respondents expressing a willingness to consider GHC if they moved house, although the availability of housing in preferred areas was likely to limit the ability of the sector to provide a positive housing outcome
- 20 out of 33 new immigrants (60 per cent) said they would consider renting from Your Homes Newcastle or Gateshead Housing Company. The housing association sector was less popular amongst this group, with 13 (42 per cent) reporting a willingness to consider this tenure. Local council officers interviewed by the research team in Gateshead reported that refugee populations

¹³ All Chinese and Czech Roma respondents were interviewed in Newcastle while all Orthodox Jewish respondents were interviewed in Gateshead.

(regardless of ethnicity) tend to express a preference for council housing, above housing association accommodation or private renting.

Table 3.5: Proportion of respondents who would consider the following tenures if they moved house

	Number (n=107)	%
Owning without a mortgage	68	70.8
Owning with mortgage	63	61.8
Renting from YHN or Gateshead Housing Company (unfurnished)	47	43.9
Renting from Housing Association	42	43.3
Renting from YHN or Gateshead Housing Company (furnished)	33	30.8
Private Renting (unfurnished)	18	18.2
Tied accommodation	15	16.0
Private Renting (furnished)	12	12.1

Table 3.6: Proportion of respondents from each ethnic group who would consider renting their next home from a social landlord

	Would consider renting from YHN or GHC		Would consider renting from a housing association	
	Number	%	Number	%
Bangladeshi	10	45.5	6	28.6
Pakistani	7	23.3	6	23.1
Jewish	6	54.5	10	83.3
Chinese	10	66.7	10	66.7
Czech Roma	5	62.5	3	37.5
Indian	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	9	81.8	7	70.0

The apparent willingness of many minority ethnic households to consider social housing is a finding of note, given the limited numbers of minority ethnic households resident within the sector (as reported in section 2.1). It also concurs with the findings of a recent study (November 2005) by Your Homes Newcastle of ethnic monitoring data, that indicated that increasing numbers of minority ethnic households are applying for social housing, although 'Asian' households remain under-represented among applicants (YHN, 2005b). Similar findings have been recorded in other towns and cities, although increasing applications do not always translate into tenancy offers and positive long-term housing outcomes (Robinson et al., 2002). However, council officers suggested that over the past three years small, but increasing, numbers of Bangladeshi and Pakistani households have moved into council accommodation and on to estates where there was previously little or no minority ethnic presence. Clearly, there is a need for this development to be monitored on an ongoing basis, for example, through new lettings data.

An interest in social rented accommodation was not only limited to households currently resident in the sector. In Newcastle, nearly one-quarter of the 29 owner occupiers providing a response reported that they would consider renting from Your Homes Newcastle. In contrast, perhaps reflecting the location of stock as well as the affordability of alternative options, no owner occupiers in Gateshead indicated any interest in moving into Gateshead Housing Company accommodation,

The private rented sector (and furnished accommodation, in particular) was rarely a tenure of choice among respondents. Nearly all of the respondents indicating a willingness to consider moving into the sector were already resident in private rented accommodation. Only two owner occupiers, three council tenants and four housing association tenants indicated that they were willing to consider renting from a private landlord.

Tenure was an important aspect of the housing preferences reported by respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area. When discussing other dimensions of their housing preferences respondents tended to talk in general terms about “*a nice house in a good area*” or “*a house with a driveway and a conservatory*”. It was also common for respondents to draw upon the inadequacies of their current situation for inspiration, talking, for example, about wanting to live in a larger property, or a house in better condition, or in accommodation with a garden for their children to play in, or in properties with certain features, such as a downstairs toilet, in order to accommodate household members with mobility problems.

3.5. Understanding Housing Situations, Experiences, and Choices

The housing situations discussed above were revealed by the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area to be the consequence of a number of inter-related issues, including:

- *neighbourhood preferences and choices* – including the importance of racialised notions of space, with certain areas being considered zones of multi-culturalism and relative safety, while others are regarded as hostile and unsafe places for minority ethnic people to be.
- *affordability* – the importance of financial resources as a determinant of housing choices
- *family size and household structure* – the availability of relevant and appropriate sized, designed and located accommodation
- *access and availability* – barriers restricting access to certain opportunities.

These are familiar issues, which have been acknowledged within the evidence base regarding minority ethnic housing experiences that has accumulated over the last 40 years or more (Harrison with Phillips, 2003). An important point to make is that these factors do not work in isolation, but have a combined effect that results in the particular housing outcomes reported in the discussion above. Of particular significance to the activities of BNG, however, and the challenge of ensuring that the new housing opportunities generated through new developments and stock renewal are open to all, is the ongoing importance of long-standing residential settlement patterns and locational preferences on housing options.

The experience and fear of racial harassment, the benefits associated with living alongside people with a shared cultural heritage, the need for easy access to community facilities and importance of the support provided through networks of kith and kin all serve to inform minority ethnic peoples’ residential choices. They also limit their housing opportunities. For example, some Pakistani respondents explained that, with limited English language skills, they needed to live close to local services and community facilities where their first language was spoken. Others explained that relatives living locally provided important support and assistance, for example with caring for children, partners and parents in poor health. Orthodox

Jewish respondents explained that they could not live too far from the Synagogue in Gateshead because religion practices prohibit them from driving a vehicle on the Sabbath. Respondents from all ethnic groups surveyed also reported being fearful of the racial harassment and abuse they might encounter if they moved beyond established areas of settlement for their population.

The importance of these issues in informing neighbourhood preferences is explored in detail in the next chapter. The point to make here is that these geographically bounded preferences serve to restrict the housing choices of many minority ethnic households to the housing opportunities available in particular locations, which tend to be characterised by poor conditions and limited tenure choice. Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Orthodox Jewish households, for example, have historically settled in and remain closely tied to neighbourhoods that have a large private sector (rented and owner occupied) and little social rented housing. It is not surprising, therefore, that these particular ethnic groups are more likely to reside in private renting housing and less likely to rent from a social landlord. These neighbourhoods are also dominated by particular forms of accommodation (smaller terraced housing and Tyneside flats, although a number have been recently converted into larger houses), a fact that contributes to high levels of overcrowding within these populations.

The private rented sector rarely emerged as a tenure of choice for respondents to the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area. Rather, it was more often a tenure of compromise. The survey did reveal, however, unmet demand for social renting. Most minority ethnic groups in the BNG area are under-represented in the social rented sector (see section 3.1), yet many residents expressed a willingness to consider moving into social rented accommodation (particularly Chinese, Bangladeshi, Orthodox Jewish, and Czech Roma respondents). This finding is significant in that it challenges the common perception that the under-representation of certain minority ethnic groups in the social rented sector is a reflection of culturally driven preference to rent privately or to own. So why, then, are so few minority ethnic households taking up the opportunities provided by social landlords in the BNG area? The limited availability of social housing in established areas of settlement and concerns about venturing into particular locations where the social rented stock tends to be concentrated have already been discussed. During interviews with residents, a number of additional barriers emerged:

- *tenure preferences* - although many respondents indicated a willingness to consider moving into social rented accommodation, many were adamant that they would not, preferring to focus on accessing and sustaining home ownership, even if this meant making do with worse living conditions
- *awareness and perceptions of social housing* - some respondents assumed that social housing was only available in predominantly White British dominated neighbourhoods located some distance away from current areas of residence. Others were unclear about the application process and eligibility criteria. This finding is consistent with numerous other studies exploring the issue of minority ethnic access to social housing (Robinson et al., 2002) and is well illustrated with reference to the views and opinions of Chinese respondents. Some of the Chinese residents interviewed reported that they were deterred from applying for social housing because they equated the tenure with particular neighbourhoods that they perceived to be unsafe. They were also ruling out applying because of assumptions they were making about their (in)eligibility. Other respondents reported believing that social housing would and could not accommodate their specific size and design requirements. In addition, one local study suggests limited knowledge about the housing association sector among Bengali, Iranian and Pakistani households (The Guinness Trust, 2004b)

- *limited availability of accommodation of an adequate size to meet the needs of minority ethnic households* - local officers in Newcastle and Gateshead reported that larger properties are scarce, limiting the capacity of the sector to provide suitable accommodation for minority ethnic groups, many of whom have larger family sizes (see below). Ethnic monitoring statistics gathered by the Gateshead Housing Company appear to corroborate this suggestion, revealing that few of the minority ethnic households resident in GHC accommodation are larger families
- *bureaucracy and the time lapse between application and allocation* - respondents expressing a desire to move house were asked if there was anything preventing them from moving. Many respondents reported frustration with the allocation process operated by Your Homes Newcastle or the Gateshead Housing Company. Some bemoaned the length of the housing waiting lists, particularly those awaiting a transfer, while others explained that they “do not have enough points” to qualify for a move. These households were reliant on social housing providers to secure more adequate accommodation, having few options for resolving their housing difficulties in the private sector.

Owner occupation was the preferred tenure choice of the vast majority of respondents, in line with the national data on tenure preferences (see Survey of English Housing). The principal barrier reported to be blocking access to the sector was affordability. This finding would appear to reflect the high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity, low levels of full-time employment and low incomes reported in Chapter 2, rather than high and rising house prices in the BNG area, which remain well below the regional or district average. Nearly half of respondents reported that cost concerns would prevent them from moving into owner occupation (Table 3.7). Most of those reporting that cost concerns would *not* prevent them from buying a property outright (i.e. with no mortgage) were already home owners (usually older people) without a mortgage.

Table 3.7: Would cost concerns stop you from considering the following if you moved?

	Yes		No		unsure / will definitely not move	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Owning without a mortgage	49	52.7	36	38.7	8	8.6
Owning with a mortgage	46	48.4	42	44.2	7	7.4
Renting from YHN (furnished)	6	10.2	50	84.7	3	5
Renting from Gateshead Housing Company (furnished)	2	6.9	21	72.4	6	20.7
Renting from YHN (unfurnished)	4	6.9	51	87.9	3	5.2
Renting from Gateshead Housing Company (unfurnished)	2	5.9	26	76.4	6	17.6
Renting from a housing association	6	6.5	78	83.9	9	9.7
Renting from a private landlord (furnished)	7	7.7	74	81.3	10	10.9
Renting from a private landlord (unfurnished)	7	7.4	77	81.9	10	10.6
Tied accommodation	5	5.5	73	80.2	13	14.3

Given problems of affordability, it is perhaps not surprising that a range of products intended to assist with providing access to home ownership proved relatively popular among respondents (Table 3.8). Over one third of respondents expressed an interest in shared ownership, discounted home ownership, self build, and mortgages reflecting certain religious beliefs (for example Shariah compliant). Equity share schemes were less popular, with just over one-quarter of respondents expressing an interest. Some differences in attitudes to these products were evident between ethnic groups:

Table 3.8: Would you consider the following

	Yes		No		Unsure	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Shared ownership Most popular amongst Jewish, Chinese and Bangladeshi respondents while only one Czech Roma respondent expressed an interest in these schemes	33	32.4	56	54.9	13	12.7
Mortgages reflecting religious/cultural beliefs Most popular amongst Bangladeshi and Pakistani respondents. In fact, 17 out of 20 Bangladeshi respondents expressed an interest in this product	35	36.5	45	46.9	16	16.7
Equity share Most popular amongst Jewish and Czech Roma respondents. For example, seven out of 11 Orthodox Jewish respondents said equity share was an option they would consider. In contrast, no Indian or Chinese respondents expressed any interest in equity share	17	26.6	32	50.0	15	23.4
Discounted home ownership Most popular with Jewish, Bangladeshi and respondents from other smaller ethnic groups, but was unpopular among Chinese respondents, with only one expressing an interest	35	34.7	49	48.5	17	16.8
Self-build All Indian respondents and half of Bangladeshi respondents said they would consider self-build schemes. In contrast no Czech Roma and only two Chinese respondents expressed any interest in self-build.	34	35.1	54	55.7	9	9.3

3.6. Housing Need and Residential Mobility

It should come as no surprise, given the problems with housing conditions and suitability encountered by respondents, that two-thirds of respondents (65.7 per cent) expressed a desire to move house. Housing needs appeared to be the principal motivation for wanting to move, rather than neighbourhood factors, the vast majority of people wanting to move *within* their current neighbourhood. As Table 3.9 reveals, the move to a bigger property was the most common motivation for wanting to move, despite minority ethnic households already being more likely than other residents to live in larger properties than the White British population (Gateshead Housing Needs Survey, 2005). Other commonly cited reasons were also housing related issues (access to a garden, conditions, tenure). In the event, however, it appears that housing needs often lose out in the trade-off with neighbourhood preferences. As the next chapter will reveal, various factors appear to be driving respondents to remain within or close to established areas of minority ethnic settlement, despite the limited housing opportunities available therein. The consequence appears to be a large divide between aspiration to move house and the actuality of moving, the analysis of data from the 2005 Gateshead Housing Needs Survey, for example, revealing that only 13.9 per cent of minority ethnic residents in the district actually had plans to move.

Table 3.9: Reasons for wanting to move

	Number citing this reason	% of respondents
Move into a bigger property	44	60.3
To have a bigger garden	30	41.1
Escape poor living conditions	29	39.7
Change tenure	18	24.7
To move to a different street	14	19.2
To move to a different neighbourhood	14	19.2
Other	12	16.4
To move nearer school	9	12.3
To be nearer family	8	11.0
To be nearer services/facilities	8	11.0
To move nearer employment	6	8.2
To be nearer friends/associates	5	6.8
To move away from friends/associates	2	2.7

Neighbourhood Situations, Experiences and Preferences

4.1. Introduction

This chapter explores the neighbourhood experiences and preferences of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area. Discussion begins by focusing on attitudes to current area of residence and levels of satisfaction, before going on to reflect on evidence of changing attitudes and neighbourhood preferences. Discussion in this chapter draws heavily on the findings to emerge from the survey of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area conducted during this study.

4.2. Neighbourhood Experiences and Satisfaction

The vast majority of respondents (81.4 per cent) expressed satisfaction with the neighbourhood where they were currently living. Levels of satisfaction were found to vary slightly, however, between the Newcastle and Gateshead zones of the BNG area, with respondents in the Newcastle area appearing more satisfied (Table 4.1). Variation in levels of satisfaction were also apparent between new immigrants and long-standing residents, new immigrants reporting lower levels of satisfaction (Table 4.2).

Table 4.1: How satisfied are you with your neighbourhood?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Total	N
Gateshead	35.6	37.8	11.1	6.7	8.9	100.0	45
Newcastle	38.6	49.1	8.8	3.5	0.0	100.0	57
Total	37.3	44.1	9.8	4.9	3.9	100.0	102

Table 4.2: How satisfied are you with your neighbourhood (new immigrants)?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Total	N
New immigrants	38.2	38.2	11.8	2.9	8.8	100.0	34
Not new immigrants	36.8	47.1	8.8	5.9	1.5	100.0	68
Total	37.3	44.1	9.8	4.9	3.9	100.0	102

These variations do not appear to reflect any significant difference between the two areas or between the experiences of new immigrants and long-standing residents in the incidence and experience of neighbourhood problems, such as crime and anti-social behaviour or racial harassment. One reported difference between the two areas and between new immigrants and long-standing residents, however, was in the provision of community facilities and culturally relevant services, which appear to be more limited in Gateshead for all minority ethnic groups, other than the Orthodox Jewish population, and often completely absent for new immigrant groups. Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian respondents in Gateshead, for example, bemoaned the lack of community food and clothing shops, Indian respondents explained that there are no Sikh or Hindu temples in the town and Muslim respondents reported that the one Mosque in the town is inadequate for the community's needs. As we will see, such provision emerged as a key issue when exploring the factors underpinning neighbourhood satisfaction.

Asked to reflect upon the aspects of life in their neighbourhood that they value and regard positively, respondents tended to concentrate on local religious and cultural facilities and networks of kith and kin, rather than, for example, the quality and desirability of the local housing, personal safety, or the attractiveness of the local environment. The following quotes provide a flavour of the type of responses received:

"It's convenient for walking to the Chinese supermarket"

"It's very friendly, family values of the Jewish community"

"The mosque is close which is important because the children need to go there for their studies and the men go to pray"

"We want to get our space where we can build our culture....a place where we can go every Tuesday or Friday and socialise and talk to one another and keep up with one another, especially the kids....keep together otherwise we forget everything. That is important for us and the future" (Czech Roma Focus Group Participant)

The importance of community focused and culturally relevant facilities and services was reiterated when respondents were asked to specify up to three things that they liked about their neighbourhood. As Table 4.3 reveals, 'local services and facilities' was the most common response, followed by 'having friends and family near by' and 'the friendliness and sense of community'¹⁴. It is interesting to note that respondents living within minority ethnic cluster areas were more likely to highlight these issues than respondents living elsewhere in the BNG area. For example, 26 of the 30 respondents living in Bensham identified local services and facilities as a positive feature of the neighbourhood, while only four of the 10 respondents living in other parts of Gateshead BNG area made such a comment about their area. Respondents currently living in Bensham included Orthodox Jewish residents, whose commitment to Bensham was revealed to be particular and unique. For Orthodox Jewish people, perhaps more so than any other grouping, living in close proximity to cultural and religious facilities is essential. Prohibited from driving on the Sabbath, households must live within walking distance of places of worship and other religious and cultural amenities, which are only found in Bensham. As a result, the Orthodox Jewish population is the most concentrated minority ethnic or faith group within the BNG area and has little presence outside the Bensham area.

¹⁴ This was an open ended question with responses coded subsequently.

These findings concur with various other studies of minority ethnic neighbourhood experiences and preferences (Harrison and Phillips, 2003). There is a long history of minority ethnic groups in England clustering in particular areas of towns and cities. Originally, these neighbourhoods provided cheap and accessible accommodation. Subsequent migrants gravitated toward these areas because of the mutual support and security provided by people from similar ethnic backgrounds. Ready access to networks of kith and kin has been identified as a particularly important reason for living close to fellow community members (Robinson et al., 2005). As well as being on hand to help out when needed, these networks can represent an important source of advice and assistance, for example, when engaging with service providers. People with limited language skills often rely on friends and relatives to interpret for them when dealing with their landlord. Friends and relatives have also been identified as providing a substitute service for people facing difficulties accessing formal support and assistance with social care and housing. Living close to people from a similar ethnic background can also provide people with a sense of comfort and security and defence from persecution, harassment and racism. Population clustering also serves to provide a critical mass of demand capable of sustaining key facilities, such as community-led services, religious facilities and shopping opportunities, as well as prompting local statutory agencies to recognise and sensitise provision to the needs of group members.

Restricted access to these benefits could explain lower levels of neighbourhood satisfaction among new immigrants (see Table 4.2) who often have little choice about where they live. Asylum seekers, for example, are provided with National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation on a 'no choice' basis and once granted leave to remain have only 28 days to secure alternative accommodation. Many are reliant on social housing and refugees and local stakeholders alike reported that the accommodation offered is often in less popular locations, sometimes on predominantly white estates some distance from residential clusters of minority ethnic households. Those not eligible for social housing or not able to secure accommodation in this sector within 28 days are reliant on the private rented sector. With limited financial resources (asylum seekers are not allowed to work and so cannot accrue funds while waiting for a decision about whether they will be granted leave to remain in the UK) and limited time in which to find alternative housing, refugee households often have to 'take what they can get' at the cheaper end of the private rented market. The result is that new immigrants can find themselves isolated from other minority ethnic households and from the support networks and community resources that have proved so vital to the negotiation of a satisfactory position in British society and the satisfaction of material needs (Robinson and Reeve, 2006).

The experiences and comments of minority ethnic residents of the BNG area point to the continuing importance of the benefits of living close to people from the same ethnic group, with a shared background and language, common culture and collective understanding, to the residential settlement patterns of minority ethnic groups. This fact was reiterated when respondents were asked what they would miss most about their area if they moved elsewhere in Newcastle or Gateshead. Once again, local facilities and services and having friends and family nearby featured strongly in their responses (Table 4.4).

4.3: What three things do you most like about your neighbourhood?

	number	%
Local services and facilities (and proximity to)	76	76.8
Friends and family nearby	34	34.3
Friendliness and sense of community	25	25.3
Transport / links to other areas	17	17.2
Security / personal safety	10	10.1
The housing	8	8.1
Employment	6	6.1

4.4: Three things about your neighbourhood which you would miss if you moved somewhere else in Newcastle/Gateshead

	Number	%
<i>Nothing</i>	7	7.3
Local facilities and services	57	59.4
Friends and family nearby	44	45.8
Friendliness/sense of community	12	12.5
Transport/links to other areas	11	11.5
Other	11	11.5
Environment	8	8.3
Property	7	7.3
Security/personal safety	4	4.2
Employment	3	3.1

Returning to the variable levels of neighbourhood satisfaction within the sample, the central importance of community facilities and networks of kith and kin to satisfaction levels might help explain lower levels of satisfaction among new immigrants. In the early months and years of settlement, new immigrants are often unable to exercise positive choice about the neighbourhoods in which they live. As a consequence they can find themselves living in White British dominated areas and isolated from households with a similar ethnic or cultural heritage and from potentially important support networks and community resources (Robinson and Reeve, 2006). This is an important point even for households belonging to relatively small or emerging ethnic groups. Research has revealed that minority ethnic households can benefit from residing in an area of minority ethnic settlement, regardless of whether they share the same ethnic identity or cultural heritage with other residents (Robinson et al., 2005). In particular, some smaller ethnic groups have been revealed to have benefited from tapping into resources and opportunities that are present in locations because of the presence of other minority ethnic groups. The clustering of different minority ethnic groups has also been reported to provide a critical mass of demand that has resulted in certain local services making greater effort to understand and respond to the requirements of all minority ethnic groups. Finally, it has been reported that some minority ethnic people can feel more at ease and comfortable living in an area where they do not readily stand out merely because they were not White, regardless of whether they have a shared ethnic or national identity with other residents. An additional issue raised by Southern African refugees interviewed in the BNG area was the importance of class. As middle class professionals these respondents reported feeling a sense of dislocation from their local neighbourhood, which was dominated by White British working class households, with whom they felt no affinity and reported that they had little in common.

Although respondents recognised important benefits that were associated with their current area of residence, this did not mean they were not experiencing problems.

Asked about what they most disliked about where they were currently living, personal safety emerged as a prime concern (see table 4.8). This was particularly true among the nine people who had expressed dissatisfaction with their current area of residence, seven of whom reported feeling unsafe in their current neighbourhood. Environmental issues and conditions, for example dog mess, litter, noise and the run down appearance of the area, were also of issues of concern. In some instances respondents articulated very specific geographies of concern, pointing, for example, to particular streets where they felt unsafe or detailing particular locations (street corners, cul-de-sacs and such like), where drug dealing and other anti social or criminal activities were concentrated and environmental blight was most severe.

Table 4.5: What three things do you most dislike about your neighbourhood?

	number	%
Safety concerns	41	44.1
Environmental issues	21	22.6
Housing	14	15.1
lack of/poor facilities and services	9	9.7
racism / racial harassment	8	8.6
Traffic issues	7	7.5
General quality of life concerns	7	7.5

It is interesting to note that racial harassment did not emerge as a key concern when respondents were asked about what they dislike about their neighbourhood; only 8 respondents cited racial harassment as something they dislike about their neighbourhood. However, when questioned specifically about racial harassment 46 respondents (43.4 per cent) reported having suffered racial harassment at least once in the past 12 months. Many of these incidents were reported to have occurred in the area where respondents were currently living, despite the fact that the majority of respondents were living in neighbourhoods with a long history of minority ethnic settlement and with sizeable minority ethnic populations. In addition, 71 respondents (71.7 per cent) said they thought racial harassment was a problem in their area, with 39 respondents reporting that it was a serious problem (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Have you experienced racial harassment in the last 12 months?

	Number	%
Yes, have experienced racial harassment	46	43.4
No, have not experienced racial harassment	60	56.6
Total	106	100

Table 4.7 Do you think that racial harassment is a problem in your area?

	Number	%
A serious problem in this area	39	39.4
A problem in this area, but not serious	32	32.3
Not a problem in the area	22	22.2
Don't know	6	6.1
Total	99	100

The form of harassment suffered by respondents ranged from verbal racist abuse through to physical attacks, as respondents explained in their own words:

"A bottle thrown, broken windows, graffiti on the door"

"Verbal abuse, called 'Chinkie', 'Chinkie'"

"Verbal abuse, banging on my door, a broken window."

"Being an Asylum Seeker I get abuse about 'go back to your own country' - if it was safer in our own country we wouldn't have come." (Eritrean)

For many respondents racial harassment and abuse was a weekly, if not daily, occurrence, with respondents explaining that *"it happens all the time"* and that they suffered such abuse *"every week, numerous times, all the time"*. It was suggested by some respondents that racial harassment – particularly verbal abuse – had increased noticeably since the events of 9/11.

More than one-third (39.1 per cent) of respondents who reported experiencing harassment in the previous 12 months had not reported the incident to any agency. Exploring the reasons for not doing so, a degree of disillusionment with the efforts of the police and other organisations to respond effectively and to tackle the problem emerged. Typical comments included:

"What's the use they don't take any action".

"We've got no trust in the police".

"it doesn't come to anything. Nothing is done when people report".

"I do challenge remarks of a derogatory racial nature, but I never reported to the police. I feel there is no point as you need witnesses and people's names etc."

Rather than seeking the support of statutory agencies, respondents reported managing the risk of harassment by employing a range of strategies for avoiding racial abuse and victimisation. These included avoiding locations where they felt at greatest risk of harassment, not leaving the house after dark and avoiding public transport.

4.3. Neighbourhood Preferences and Aspirations

Two-thirds (65.7 per cent) of all respondents reported that they would move house in the next two years if they were able. Asked where they would like to move, three-quarters reported that they would like to remain within their current area of residence (Table 4.8).

Analysis of these responses by ethnic group revealed a correlation between levels of commitment to current area of residence and the membership of ethnic groups known to be clustered in particular neighbourhoods within the Newcastle and Gateshead BNG areas (Orthodox Jewish, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Czech Roma). Czech Roma respondents tended to indicate a desire to remain in North Benwell, Orthodox Jewish people were clear that they wanted to remain in Bensham, and Chinese respondents rarely wanted to move far from the centre of Newcastle. In addition, some respondents expressing a desire to move from their neighbourhood reported being keen to move into established areas of minority ethnic settlement. An Eritrean woman in Gateshead, for example, explained that she lived in a predominantly White British area and was seeking a transfer through her social

landlord to be closer to Bensham. In the meantime she was travelling the five miles to Bensham as often as she could afford in order to use community facilities.

Table 4.8: Where would you like to move to: respondents expressing a desire to move house

	Newcastle		Gateshead		Total sample	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	%
Within current area	47	81.0	26	62.8	73	73.0
Move to a neighbouring area	5	8.6	7	16.3	12	12.0
Elsewhere in this city/town	6	10.3	2	4.7	8	8.0
Elsewhere in the UK	0	0	2	4.7	2	2.0
Don't know	0	0	5	11.6	5	5.0
Total	58	100.0	42	100.0	100	100

Minority ethnic residents of the BNG area appear committed to their current area of residence. It would be wrong, however, to assume that respondents will not consider living anywhere within these areas. Respondents living in the established minority ethnic clusters of Bensham, Elswick and Arthurs Hill were revealed to have very localised preferences, identifying parts of these neighbourhoods, particular streets and even certain sections of particular streets where they would not consider living.

It would also be wrong to assume that residents do not aspire to improve their housing situations by moving elsewhere in Gateshead or Newcastle. Respondents in both Newcastle and Gateshead aspired to move to more suburban locations, in neighbourhoods which were perceived as being *"less rough, where there is less crime...where the streets are clean"*. The neighbourhoods often referred to included Fenham and Gosforth in Newcastle and Low Fell in Gateshead. Located adjacent to the areas in which many respondents were currently living, these neighbourhoods were perceived as offering better quality housing and environmental conditions, while still being close to cultural amenities and family, friends, and support networks. Fenham, for example, was described by a resident of Elswick, as *"a nice, leafy area, a suburban middle-class area, and its practically still near my family and Asian facilities."*

Fenham, which falls within the BNG area but is not a target for strategic interventions given the relative health of the local housing market, was the most popular 'aspirational' location amongst Newcastle respondents, proving attractive to people currently resident in Benwell, Arthurs Hill, Cruddas Park, Elswick, North Kenton and Bensham, as well as the 14 interviewees currently living there. In total, fifteen respondents cited Fenham as their 'ideal location' and a further seven mentioned this area along with other potential areas. In contrast, Arthurs Hill, Benwell and Elswick were only popular amongst respondents already resident in these neighbourhoods.

Table 4.9: Preferred destinations among Newcastle respondents wanting to move

		Number
Newcastle	Ellesmere Road	2
	Benwell	1
	Byker	1
	Jesmond	1
	Fenham	6
	North Fenham	1
	Grainger Park	1
	A neighbouring area to Fenham	1
	A neighbouring area to Benwell	1
	Fenham/Gosforth	1
	Fenham/Grainger Park	1
	Gosforth/Kenton	1
	The Brewery site, near the city centre/Heaton	1
	Walker/Heaton	1
	North Newcastle: Heaton, Gosforth	1
Newcastle/Gateshead	North Benwell/Gateshead	1

Low Fell (defined in discussions as being the area south of Saltwell Park in Bensham) was referred to in a similar way to Fenham by respondents in Gateshead, being considered a “quieter area” where there is “a nicer atmosphere, cleaner, more greenery” and where “bigger properties” and “beautiful houses” are available. In total, six of the seven Gateshead respondents expressing a desire to leave their current area of residence identified Low Fell as a potential destination (see table 4.6). Religious and community ties firmly bind the Orthodox Jewish population to Bensham, but Low Fell also emerged as an aspirational area for this population. One respondent explained, for example, that many of the neighbourhood characteristics they sought - such as low levels of crime and the availability of good quality accommodation - were evident in Low Fell, but also commented that the absence of a Jewish community and related resources presented an insurmountable barrier. When asked if there were any other areas he would like to live he replied “Low Fell - but only if there was a Jewish community there.”

Table 4.10: Preferred Destinations among Gateshead respondents wanting to move

		Number
Gateshead	Low Fell	5
	Whickham	1
	Lobley Hill, Whickham, Low Fell	1
Newcastle	Gosforth	1
	Fenham	1
Outside Newcastle/Gateshead	London	2
	Manchester	1
	Northumberland	1

Respondents were asked whether there were any neighbourhoods where they would not live under any circumstances. Table 4.11 details the responses received and the stated reasons given by respondents for their reluctance to consider particular location. Perceived levels of crime and anti-social behaviour were preventing many respondents considering certain locations, although it is interesting to note that many respondents reported knowing little about these areas and having no direct experience of what life was like in these neighbourhoods. Rather, respondents talked about having *heard* that an area was 'rough', or that crime was rife, or that an area had a bad *reputation*.

Table 4.11: Specific locations in the BNG area where respondents would not consider living and reason why

Area	Groups commonly citing the area as a place they would not live	Reasons given for not considering living in the area
Scotswood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladeshi • Pakistani 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise • Too crowded
Benwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladeshi (2) • Pakistani (1) • Chinese (1) • Other (1) • Czech Roma (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative perceptions of the area
Elswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladeshi (3) • Pakistani (2) • Other (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety concerns • Negative perceptions of the area
Cruddas Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladeshi (4) • Pakistani (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceived high rates of crime, racism and vandalism • Bad reputation
Walker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese (2), • Pakistani (2) 	
Bensham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian (3), • Other (4), • Pakistani (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative perceptions of the area • Reputation for high rates of crime and racism
Particular parts of Bensham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthodox Jewish (9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour • Built environment • Negative perceptions of the area Lack of established ethnic community
Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistani (2) • Indian (1) • Other (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism • Safety concerns • Lack of established ethnic community
Felling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian (1) • Pakistani (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative perceptions of the areaBad reputation

Benefiting from BNG Interventions

5.1. Introduction

Preceding chapters have revealed the minority ethnic population of the BNG area to be going through a process of transformation, growing rapidly and becoming more ethnically diverse as result of new immigration. Extreme levels of housing deprivation and widespread dissatisfaction with current accommodation have been uncovered. Two-thirds of 107 respondents to the survey of minority ethnic people in the BNG area indicated a desire to move house, the majority citing the need for a bigger property as the main reason for wanting to relocate. Opportunities to move are limited, however, by financial constraints, the importance of established social networks and community resources in current areas of residence and by strongly racialised notions of space, that lead people to favour particular (familiar) locations, while regarding other (White dominated) areas as zones of hostility where it is unsafe for minority ethnic people to be.

The BNG housing market renewal programme represents a significant opportunity to counter these constraints and tackle housing deprivation among the minority ethnic population. Through the renewal of existing stock and the development of new properties, BNG and its partners has the potential to address the current mismatch between the housing requirements of the local population and the profile of the local housing market. The survey of minority ethnic households in the BNG area sought to support the realisation of this potential by exploring the attitudes of minority ethnic residents to currently ongoing and planned housing market renewal activities across the Strategic Commission areas of the BNG area. Respondents were asked about their attitudes to these eight areas, whether they would consider living in each area, whether BNG activities might increase their willingness to do so and what else might be done to provide access to the housing opportunities that are being created in these locations. This chapter details the findings of this element of the survey.

Discussion is organised into two sections, focusing, in turn, on the four strategic commission areas in Gateshead and particular component parts of the strategic commission areas in Newcastle.

5.2. Gateshead Strategic Commissions

Discussions with the 45 respondents in Gateshead focused on the following four Strategic Commission areas:

- Bensham and Saltwell
- Dunston
- Felling Bypass Corridor
- Teams.

As table 5.1 reveals, there was an overwhelming preference among respondents to live in the established area of minority ethnic settlement in the Gateshead - Bensham

and Saltwell - and little or no appetite for living in other Strategic Commission areas. These preferences are explored in more detail in the following tables.

Table 5.1: Willingness to consider living in Gateshead Strategic Commission Areas

Strategic Commission	Yes		No		Unsure		Most common reasons for not considering
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
<i>Bensham and Saltwell</i>	41	91.1	3	6.7	1	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only three respondents reported that they would not live in Bensham and Saltwell
<i>Dunston</i>	4	3.7	35	77.8	6	13.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as lacking relevant services and facilities and being isolated from key resources available in established area of settlement perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment
<i>The Felling Bypass Corridor</i>	6	13.3	33	73.3	6	13.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> isolation less of concern than in Dunston lack of willingness to consider the area often explained with the comment that 'it is not Bensham' perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment
<i>Teams</i>	5	11.1	31	68.9	9	20.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> isolation less of concern than in Dunston lack of willingness to consider the area often explained with the comment that 'it is not Bensham' concerns raised about personal safety

BENSHAM AND SALTWELL	
Popularity	<p>This was by far the most popular neighbourhood in the Gateshead BNG area. In total, 91 % of respondents (41 out of 45) indicated a willingness to move into or remain in Bensham and Saltwell</p> <p>The popularity of the area rested on both what it was (multi-ethnic area with associated services and facilities) and what it was not (White British dominated area with reputation for harassment and isolated from community resources and established social networks)</p>
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>Only four respondents indicated that they did not want to remain or would not consider living in the area. Factors referred to by these respondents when explaining their reluctance to live in area centred on personal safety issues and social problems in the neighbourhood.</p>
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	<p>Most respondents were already living in the area. They were therefore asked about whether the various interventions planned for the area would increase their willingness to remain in the area. The positive responses related to property and environmental improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% (35 out of 44 respondents) responded positively regarding the refurbishment of Tyneside flats to create six bedroom properties • 80% (35 out of 45 respondents) responded positively regarding the creation of more open/green spaces • 70% (29 out of 43 respondents) responded positively to the building of new houses with gardens
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	<p>Asked what three interventions would make them even more likely to consider living in the area, responses focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • property related issues – almost half of respondents (18 out of 42) referred to property focused interventions, with key concerns including the provision of/improvements in gardens, the provision of larger houses and the renovation of existing stock • provision of facilities – almost half of respondents (18 out of 42) referred to generic and community specific facilities, with key concerns including more community shops, more community centres (including neutral community spaces), improvements to green spaces and the provision of religious facilities • tackling crime and ASB – more than one quarter of respondents (12 out of 42) referred to the issue of crime and the need to manage ASB and harassment. Responses commonly focused on concerns, rather than explicit responses, although the need for more visible policing, including neighbourhood wardens, was put forward

DUNSTON	
Popularity	This area was unpopular with respondents. Only 9% (4 out of 45 respondents) reported that they would consider living in Dunston. Six respondents (13%) indicated that they did not know the area and were unable to comment.
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>Factors referred to by the 37 respondents unwilling to live in Dunston and explaining their concerns about the area focused on the isolation of the area from key resources and facilities located in current areas of residence and problems likely to be encountered when living in the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54% of respondents (20 out of 37) who provided an explanation referred to the area as being isolated from community facilities: <i>'[It's a] long way from Mosque and facilities...not a desirable area. If parts of area demolished there will be animosity towards newcomers who take up new opportunities' (ID.9).</i> • more than one quarter (11 out of 37) reported that they were concerned about perceived problems in the neighbourhood, including crime and ASB • 14% (5 out of 37) cited personal safety fears as a key reason for not wanting to live in the area • 5% (2 out of 37) reported that the area provided a poor residential environment
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	<p>A minority of all respondents interviewed in Gateshead indicated that BNG interventions were likely to make them more willing to live in the area, although no particular intervention had universal appeal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% (11 out of 44) reported that more family housing would make them more willing to consider living in Dunston • 23% (10 out of 43) suggested that work to improve the reputation of the area would make them more willing to live in the area • 19% (8 out of 43) said that the demolition of poor quality housing and replacement with new housing would make the area more attractive • 14% (6 out of 43) reported that more social housing would increase their willingness to consider living in the area <p>In total, half of respondents (23 out of 42) said that there was nothing that could be done to make them more likely to consider living in Dunston.</p>
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	No respondents were currently living in the area and half of respondents (23 out of 42) said that there was nothing that could be done to make them more likely to consider living in Dunston. The remainder of respondents were asked what three interventions would make them even more likely to consider living in the area. No obvious consensus emerged but comments including the need to improve local facilities (shops, community and religious facilities), housing and environment conditions and tackle crime.

TEAMS	
Popularity	Teams was an unpopular area among respondents, only 11% (five out of 45) of respondents indicating a willingness to live in the area. Eight respondents (almost one in five) indicated that they did not know the area and could not, therefore, comment.
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>Reasons given by the 32 people who did not want to live in Teams and explained their concerns centred around perceptions and experiences of the area and concerns about what people would be leaving behind by moving out of Bensham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one third of respondents referred to the fact that Teams 'is not Bensham'. In particular, respondents pointed to what they would be giving up by leaving Bensham and moving to Teams, in terms of access to social networks of family and friends and access to community resources, including religious facilities. <i>'[I] would not consider any other areas other than Bensham because [I] need to be 10 minutes from [the] synagogue'.</i> • 28.1% (9 out of 32) cited personal safety fears as a reason for not being willing to live in Teams • 25% (8 out of 32) also mentioned perceived social and neighbourhood problems as reasons for not being willing to move to Teams <p><i>'This area also has some bad reputation of youth disorder and anti-social behaviour'</i></p>
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	<p>Only a minority of respondents interviewed in Gateshead reported that the BNG interventions would make them more willing to consider living in Teams. Property-related improvements were the most popular interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of respondents (9 out of 43) reported that the replacement of old houses with new properties would make them more likely to consider Teams. • 18% of respondents (8 out of 43) reported that refurbishment of selected properties would make them more willing to consider the area • 12% of respondents (5 out of 43) thought that greater regulation of private landlords would make them more likely to consider living in Teams
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	Almost three quarters of respondents (30 out of 42) reported that they could think of nothing that would make more willing to consider living in Teams. Respondents' comments about how to improve the area focused on crime, ASB and racism.

FELLING BYPASS CORRIDOR	
Popularity	Only six out of 45 respondents (13%) reported that they would consider living in the Felling Bypass Corridor area. Five respondents reported that they did not know the area and could not comment (one in 10).
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>In addition to the area's failings in comparison to Bensham, the comments made by people not willing to consider living in the area focused on perceptions of crime, ASB and safety and security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-third of respondents (11 out of 34) reported that the area was lacking in comparison to Bensham, where they were currently living • one-third of respondents (11 out of 34) raised concerns about social problems in the area, quality of life, and poor housing conditions • 17% of respondents (6 out of 34 respondents) reported fears about personal safety, most making explicit reference to racism and reporting personal or second hand experience of problems in the area
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	<p>One third of respondents interviewed in Gateshead commented positively about the potential for BNG activities to make them more likely to live in the Felling area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-third of respondents (14 out of 41) responded positively to plans to replace old houses with newly built properties on Sunderland Road • one-third of respondents (14 out of 41) indicated that the development of new housing for sale or for rent would make them consider living in the area • one-third of respondents (13 out of 39) responded positively about proposed improvements to Felling town centre and local services • one-quarter of respondents (11 out of 39) indicated that the replacement of flats on the Brandling estate with new housing would make them more likely to live in the area
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	Two-thirds of respondents (28 out of 42) indicated that nothing would make them likely to consider living in the area. Comments made by respondents about how to improve the area focused on the need to address social problems in the area, including perceived crime and ASB.

The tables above have focused on attitudes to the opportunities being generated by BNG activities in different areas and opinions about what might be done to make people more likely to consider moving into an area. In addition, respondents were asked about whether they thought a series of additional interventions would increase the likelihood of them taking advantage of new housing opportunities being generated in the Gateshead BNG area. The responses received from 40 people are detailed in Table 5.2. The first point to note is that a majority of respondents responded positively to all suggestions. However, three interventions, addressing familiar themes (see Chapters 3 and 4) proved particularly popular, garnering a positive response from more than three-quarters of respondents: improved safety and security; opportunities for family and friends to move together to a new area and; opportunities to access owner occupation.

Table 5.2: The Potential for Interventions to Make People More likely to take Advantage of New opportunities in Gateshead (n=40)

Interventions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Marketing / information sharing	25	11	4
Guided tours of the area and new developments	23	13	4
Information on local services, resources and transport	18	16	3
Community involvement in planning for the area	30	6	4
Culturally sensitive design features	29	9	3
Properties for larger families	27	10	3
Opportunities to own your home	32	5	3
Opportunities for renting from a housing association	21	12	6
Opportunities for family/friends to move together into a new area	35	4	2
Help to settle into a new area	27	9	3
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups	29	5	6
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	27	7	6
Improved safety and security	35	3	2
Improved public transport	26	10	4
Improved job opportunities	24	12	4
Improvements in local schools	22	11	3

5.3. Newcastle Strategic Commission Areas

Discussions with the 62 respondents in Newcastle focused on five areas within the four Strategic Commission areas:

- The Discovery Quarter
- Byker and Ouseburn
- Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill
- Old Benwell / Benwell and Scotswood
- Walker Riverside.

In contrast to the situation in Gateshead, respondents in Newcastle were far more open to the possibility of living in different parts of the BNG area, although there was a clear preference for the western part of the BNG area; the established area of minority ethnic settlement in the city (Table 5.3). These preferences are explored below.

Table 5.3: Willingness to consider living in Newcastle Strategic Commission Areas

Strategic Commission	Yes		No		Unsure		Most common reasons for not considering
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
<i>The Discovery Quarter</i>	32	53.3	24	40.0	4	6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as being isolated from key resources available in established area of settlement
<i>Byker and Ouseburn</i>	11	18.6	40	67.8	8	13.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as lacking relevant services and facilities and being isolated from key resources in established area of settlement perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment concerns raised about personal safety
<i>Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill</i>	28	45.2	22	35.5	12	19.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> little or no consistency in responses
<i>Old Benwell / Benwell Village and Scotswood</i>	17	27.4	35	56.5	10	16.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment concerns raised about personal safety
<i>Walker Riverside</i>	12	20.0	42	70.0	6	10.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived as lacking relevant services and facilities and being isolated from key resources in established area of settlement perceived to be an area with social problems and providing a poor living environment

OLD BENWELL / BENWELL VILLAGE AND SCOTSWOOD	
Popularity	Despite the close proximity of this area to established areas of minority ethnic settlement, where many respondents were currently living, only one-quarter of respondents (17 out of 62) reported that they would consider living in the area.
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>The focus of concern among people unwilling to live in the area was on social problems and the poor environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • half of respondents (18 out of 37) identified social problems, including perceived crime and ASB, violence and harassment, as a key reason for not wanting to live in the area • one in five respondents (8 out of 37 respondents) suggested that the area lacked relevant facilities (including religious facilities) and that it was too far from established centres of provision, or that such areas were not readily accessible by public transport • one in five respondents (8 out of 37) reported that personal safety fears were the main reason why they were unwilling to live in the area, a small number of respondents recounting personal or second accounts of racism and violence.
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	<p>Half of all respondents in Newcastle providing a response (27 out of 57) indicated that planned and ongoing BNG interventions would make them more willing to live in the area. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than one-third of respondents (22 out of 56) reported that the provision of more family housing would make them willing to consider living in the area • one-third of respondents (18 out of 57) reported that work to improve the reputation of the area would make them more willing to consider the area • one-quarter of respondents (16 out of 56) reported that the provision of more social housing would make them more willing to consider moving into the area
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	More than half (30 out of 57 respondents) reported that there was nothing that would prompt them to change their minds about living in the area. Respondents making suggestions about how to make the area more attractive focused on the need for improved neighbourhood management and policing to tackle social problems, improvements in housing and the provision of relevant community facilities (including shops and leisure centres).

DISCOVERY QUARTER (INCLUDING THE BREWERY SITE)	
Popularity	The Discovery Quarter proved the most popular area among respondents in Newcastle, more than half indicating that they would consider living in the area. This popularity appeared to be rooted in the proposed development of new properties in the area. As a new residential area, the Discovery Quarter also does not have an established (bad) reputation as a place to live. Other positives are that it is close to city centre and associated facilities and also close to established areas of settlement.
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>The 24 people who reported that they were unwilling to consider living in the area struggled to explain their concerns. Indeed, asked to give three reasons that explained their unwillingness to live in the area, no one offered three reasons and only six respondents offered two reasons for not wanting to live in the area. Among the responses that were received the most common concern was isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 out of 20 respondents reported that the area lacked relevant facilities and was too far from community facilities in established areas of settlement • 4 out of 20 respondents raise concerns about the local environment
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	The focus of discussion in relation to the Discovery Quarter was on the proposed BNG interventions, given that the area currently provides a very limited residential offer. The responses discussed above are therefore as much indicative of the popularity of BNG interventions, and in particular the development of the Brewery Site, as the possibilities provided by living in this area.
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	Asked what the benefits might be living close to the city centre, all 42 people providing a response focused on the accessibility of various resources (employment, shops, restaurants, transport). Other positives were identified as being improved safety and the community facilities nearby, for example in Arthurs Hill. Chinese respondents made particular reference to the attractiveness of living close to the 'Chinatown' area of the city centre.

ELSWICK / NORTH BENWELL / ARTHURS HILL	
Popularity	This established area of minority ethnic settlement, adjacent to the West Road, was the second most popular location among respondents, almost half (28 out of 62) indicating that they would consider living in the area. Respondents indicated a preference for particular locations within the area, no one indicating a preference for South Elswick (including Cruddas Park) and North Benwell and Arthurs Hill proving particularly popular.
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>There was little consensus among the 22 respondents who indicated that they would not consider living in the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 respondents raised concerns about social problems in the area • 6 respondents reported concerns about the local environment - cited environmental concerns • 4.7% (4 respondents) - cited personal safety fears
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	<p>BNG interventions focusing on improvements to the local housing stock emerged as having significant potential to increase willingness to live in the area among the 60 respondents who responded to questioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almost half (27) reported that if old houses were replaced with newly built properties they would be more willing to consider the area • more than one-third (22) indicated that the refurbishment of selected properties in the area would make them more willing to consider the area • one-quarter (14) reported that improved local facilities would make them more willing to consider living in the area
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	Half (27 out of 56 respondents) said that nothing could make them consider living in the area. Suggestions made by respondents who thought the area could be made a more attractive place to live focused on environment improvements (green spaces and facilities for children), improvements in the local housing stock and neighbourhood management.

WALKER RIVERSIDE	
Popularity	Relatively few respondents were willing to consider living in Walker Riverside, although the fact that 12 out of 60 respondents (20%) indicated that they would be willing to move into the area challenges assumptions that the area is considered unpopular amongst all minority ethnic households.
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>Among the 37 respondents who were not willing to consider the area and explained their concerns, a particular concern was isolation from social networks and facilities in the West End of the city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • half of the respondents (19 out of 37 respondents) raised concerns about the area's lack of relevant services and facilities and being isolated and too far away from facilities and social networks in current areas of residence • one-third of respondents (13 out of 37) referred to social isolation (away from other community members) and problems thought to exist in the area, including crime and ASB
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	Respondents' very limited familiarity, knowledge and awareness of Walker prohibited discussion of changing attitudes and ways and means of increasing the attractiveness of the area.
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	

BYKER AND OUSEBURN	
Popularity	This was the least popular area in Newcastle among respondents, only 11 out of 59 respondents stating that they would consider living in Byker and Ouseburn. It is worth observing, however, as with the situation in Walker, that the area was not as unpopular amongst minority ethnic households as it is sometimes portrayed.
Factors Limiting Interest in Living in the Area	<p>Interestingly, many people were unable to give a specific reason for not wanting to live in the area, apparently being unfamiliar with the area and unable to comment specifically about particular aspects of the neighbourhood. Among the 31 respondents providing comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-third (10 out of 31) raised concerns about the area's lack of relevant services and facilities and being isolated and too far away from facilities and social networks in current areas of residence • one quarter (8 out of 31) raised concerns about social isolation (away from other community members) and problems thought to exist in the area, including crime and ASB • one in five respondents (6 out of 31) raised concerns about personal safety in the area
Potential for BNG Interventions to Change Attitudes	Respondents' limited familiarity, knowledge and awareness of the Byker area prohibited discussion of changing attitudes and ways and means of increasing the attractiveness of the area.
Suggestions for Increasing the Attractiveness of the Area	

Asked whether a series of additional interventions would increase the likelihood of them taking advantage of new housing opportunities being generated in the Newcastle BNG area, the top three issues were marketing/information sharing about areas, improved public transport and information on local services, resources and transport. The popularity of these interventions suggests that a key concern that could limit the uptake up of new housing opportunities in the Newcastle BNG area among minority ethnic residents is unfamiliarity with different neighbourhoods and concerns about certain neighbourhoods being isolated from the facilities, social networks and services upon which people rely. This impression is reinforced by the popularity of guided tours of areas and new developments. In addition, improved safety and security and opportunities for family and friends to move together to a new area (thereby overcoming the issue of isolation) were popular interventions.

Table 5.4: The Potential for Interventions to Make People More Likely to take Advantage of New opportunities in Newcastle (n=58)

Interventions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Marketing / information sharing	43	14	4
Guided tours of the area and new developments	39	14	7
Information on local services, resources and transport	42	14	5
Community involvement in planning for the area	33	20	8
Culturally sensitive design features	30	17	10
Properties of larger families	34	18	7
Opportunities to own your home	26	24	8
Opportunities for renting from a housing association	18	27	11
Opportunities for family/friends to move together into a new area	39	10	10
Help to settle into a new area	28	19	11
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups	27	17	12
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	30	18	10
Improved safety and security	39	13	6
Improved public transport	43	12	4
Improved job opportunities	36	17	5
Improvements in local schools	37	17	4

5.4. Conclusion

This chapter has revealed various reasons why access to the new housing opportunities being generated by the activities of BNG and its partners could be limited for minority ethnic households. In Gateshead there was little enthusiasm among respondents to live outside Bensham and Saltwell. Although BNG interventions did increase interest in the possibility of moving into Dunston, Teams and the Felling Bypass Corridor, only a minority ethnic of respondents were willing to consider doing so. Key reasons for the reluctance to consider living in these areas included fears about safety and security, perceived social problems in these areas and the issue of isolation from social networks and key resources and services. In the Newcastle BNG area there was more willingness among respondents to consider a wider range of areas, but preferences were still spatially differentiated. The East of the Newcastle BNG area (Walker and Byker) received very little interest compared to other areas, Scotswood, South Benwell, and South Elswick/Cruddas Park also proved unpopular, while Arthurs Hill, North Benwell, Fenham and the Discovery Quarter were relatively popular. Key reasons for the reluctance to consider these areas focused on issues of safety and security, concerns about social problems, presumptions about isolation when living in these areas and unfamiliarity with some of the areas in question.

These findings raise a series of challenges for BNG and its partners. First, there is an equalities challenge, which demands that BNG and its partners strive to ensure that the new housing opportunities generated through the ongoing programme of new development and stock renewal are marketed and open and accessible to all. As clear locations of choice amongst minority ethnic households emerge it will be essential that new build and home improvement activities in these locations actively seek to meet the needs of these communities. Second, there is the question of housing need and quality of life, which could be set to worsen dramatically if the people who are living in some of the most deprived housing situations do not gain from the housing market renewal activities being actioned in the area (for example, block improvements, conversions and new build activities). Third, there is the issue of neighbourhood sustainability, which could be in jeopardy in certain parts of the BNG area if renewal activities fail to underpin the faltering housing market and poor reputations by drawing in new demand. Promoting positive changes taking place in these neighbourhoods will also be essential.

These are the significant challenges that this report presents for BNG and which the strategy document that accompanies this report seeks to help BNG and its partners rise to meet.

PART TWO: GROUP PROFILES

This part of the report provides detailed insights into the housing situations, experiences, wants and needs of the different minority ethnic groups living in the BNG area. The content and coverage of each profile varies depending upon the availability of relevant data. No people interviewed by the research team, for example, self-defined their ethnicity as mixed heritage, but data from the 2001 Census have allowed the generation of a descriptive profile of this population. In contrast, the Census data provide limited information regarding the Orthodox Jewish population, but insights generated through face-to-face discussions has allowed the particular situations and experiences of this group to be acknowledged.

In total, 11 profiles are provided:

- the Bangladeshi profile draws on Census data, interviews with men and women and a focus group with people who self-defined their ethnic origin as Bangladeshi
- the Indian profile draws on Census data and interviews with men and women who self-defined their ethnic origin as Indian
- the Pakistani profile draws on Census data and interviews with Pakistani men and women who self-defined their ethnic origin as Pakistani
- the Jewish profile draws conclusions from the Census data and interviews with men and women who self-defined their ethnic origin as Jewish
- the Chinese profile draws on Census data and insights to emerge from interviews with men and women who self-defined their ethnic origin as Chinese
- the New Immigrant profile draws on interviews and focus group discussions with people who reported that they had arrived into the UK in the last five years
- the White Irish profile draws on Census data regarding the White Irish population
- the White Other profile draws on Census data regarding men and women categorised as being of a White ethnic origin other than White British and White Irish
- the Mixed Heritage profile draws on Census data regarding men and women categorised as being of Mixed ethnic origin
- the Black African profile draws on Census data regarding men and women categorised by the Census as being of Black African ethnic origin
- the African Caribbean profile draws on Census data regarding men and women categorised as being of African Caribbean ethnic origin.

Bangladeshi Residential Situations and Experiences

6.1. Introduction

This discussion of the residential situations and experiences of the Bangladeshi population of the BNG area draws on information and evidence from three sources:

- *face-to-face interviews with 22 Bangladeshi people living within or adjacent to the Newcastle part of the BNG area* - all respondents were born outside the UK. More than half (12) had been living in the UK for over 20 years. In total 12 were British citizens. The remainder had either entered the UK on a marriage visa or as a dependent child; had been granted indefinite leave to remain or; been granted refugee status. Five respondents were defined as new immigrants (had been in the UK less than five years). All respondents were between 23 and 55 years old. The majority (21) were married or in long-term relationships and around two-thirds (15) had children under the age of 16 living with them. Approximately one third were in paid employment, one third were looking after the home and one third were unemployed, permanently sick or disabled, or retired. All the Bangladeshi interviewees were Muslim. The first language of most respondents was Bengali, although Sylheti and English were also spoken. Nine of the 22 interviewees indicated that they or a member of their household had a health problem, long-term illness or disability which limits their daily activities and the work they can do. The length of time interviewees had been resident in Newcastle varied from six months to 21 years, although around half of the interviewees had been living in Newcastle for over 20 years. The majority had moved to Newcastle directly from Bangladesh, other respondents moving to Newcastle from various locations across the UK (most commonly London). The majority of Bangladeshi respondents lived in Elswick, but others were living in Fenham, Benwell, Arthurs Hill and North Kenton. Twelve of the Bangladeshi interviewees were owner occupiers
- a focus group discussion held with four Bangladeshi people living in Gateshead part of the BNG area - all four respondents were British citizens, all had been born outside the UK, all were currently living in Gateshead and all were owner occupiers with a mortgage
- the 2001 and 1991 Censuses of Population, which provides profile information regarding the settlement experiences and housing situations of the Bangladeshi population.

6.2. The Bangladeshi Population

Census data reveal the Bangladeshi population to be one of the largest minority ethnic groupings in the BNG area. In 2001, the Census recorded 2,083 Bangladeshi people living in the BNG area, with the vast majority (96 per cent) being resident in the Newcastle part of the BNG area.

Table 6.1: Number of people

	Number of people	Percentage of Minority Ethnic Population	Percentage of Total Population
BNG Area	2,083	11.8	1.1
Newcastle-BNG	1,991	14.2	1.6
Gateshead-BNG	92	2.5	0.1

Between 1991 and 2001 the Bangladeshi population of the BNG almost doubled in size, compared to an overall decrease in the population of the BNG area. Population growth, however, was far more modest in the Gateshead part of the BNG area, compared to the situation in Newcastle.

Table 6.2: Population Change between 1991 and 2001

	BNG area			Newcastle-BNG			Gateshead-BNG		
	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change
Bangladeshi	1,059	2,083	96.7	985	1,991	102.1	74	92	24.3
All people	202,314	192,117	-5.0	133,580	127,276	-4.7	68,734	64,841	-5.7

The Bangladeshi population in the BNG area is considerably younger than the BNG average and there are relatively few older Bangladeshi people in the BNG area. In 2001, some 60 per cent of the Bangladeshi population was less than 25 years old (compared to 34.2 per cent of the BNG population as a whole) and 40.9 per cent of the Bangladeshi population was less than 16 years old (compared to one-fifth of all people in the area). Less than five per cent of the Bangladeshi population of the BNG area was 60 years old or above, compared to 20 per cent of all people in the area, although Table 4 reveals that the older Bangladeshi population grew relatively rapidly.

Table 6.3: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Bangladeshi	BNG area	40.9	18.7	33.0	2.9	1.5	2.5	0.5	2,088
	Newcastle-BNG	41.6	18.3	32.9	2.6	1.6	2.5	0.4	1,991
	Gateshead-BNG	25.8	25.8	33.0	9.3	0.0	3.1	3.1	97
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 6.4: Change in the age structure of the population between 1991 and 2001

Percentage change in size of population		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Bangladeshi	BNG area	69.8	101.0	177.4	-19.7	60.0	231.3	400.0	97.2
	Newcastle-BNG	75.6	105.1	186.5	-24.6	60.0	233.3	250.0	102.1
	Gateshead-BNG	-19.4	56.3	68.4	28.6	-	200.0	-	31.1
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>-5.8</i>	<i>-3.2</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-2.8</i>	<i>-19.0</i>	<i>-16.2</i>	<i>-5.4</i>	<i>-5.0</i>

Table 6.5: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
Bangladeshi	BNG	2.8	7.0	0.0	53.5	8.5	7.0	0.8	20.4	471
	Newcastle-BNG	2.9	6.1	0.0	55.1	7.7	7.5	0.9	19.7	441
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	20.0	0.0	30.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	30
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Three-quarters (76.9 per cent) of Bangladeshi households contained at least one dependent child in 2001, compared to just one-quarter of all households in the BNG area (27.9 per cent). A relatively small proportion of Bangladeshi households were single people living alone (9.8 per cent, compared to 38.5 per cent of all households in the area). One in five Bangladeshi households were categorised as 'other households' (not single people or one family households) suggesting that many households contain more than one family.

Table 6.6: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
Bangladeshi	BNG	76.9	362
	Newcastle-BNG	79.4	350
	Gateshead-BNG	40.0	12
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

The 2001 Census reveals the Bangladeshi population of the BNG area to be experiencing high levels of social and economic deprivation, as indicated by levels of unemployment and economic inactivity. Only one-quarter (25.8 per cent) of Bangladeshi people were in full or part time employment in 2001 (compared to 42.6 per cent of all people in the BNG area); the unemployment rate was higher among the Bangladeshi population; 38.3 per cent of the Bangladeshi population in the BNG area had never worked, compared to 9.2 per cent of all people in the BNG area; over half (56 per cent) of all Bangladeshi people were economically inactive, compared to 44.7 per cent of all people in the BNG area and; only 9.8 per cent of Bangladeshi were classified as being in managerial or professional occupations, compared to 22.9 per cent of all people in the BNG area. Some other particularly notable differences in Bangladeshi situations, compared to the wider BNG population, include higher levels of self-employment, the relatively large proportion of the population looking after the family/home, the small proportion of retired people and the above average number of full time students, and the relatively high levels of unemployment among the Bangladeshi population in Gateshead (see Table 6.8).

High levels of deprivation appear to be closely correlated to low levels of educational attainment within the Bangladeshi population. Over half of all Bangladeshi people aged 16 to 74 in the BNG area were recorded by the 2001 Census as having no qualifications and the proportion of the population attaining lower or high levels qualifications was below the average across the BNG area (Table 7), although a relatively high proportion (18 per cent) of the Bangladeshi population in Gateshead were recorded as having higher level qualifications, a notable finding given the relatively high level of unemployment within the population.

Table 6.7: Qualifications

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
Bangladeshi	BNG	56.4	33.0	10.6	1,222
	Newcastle-BNG	56.5	33.3	10.2	1,150
	Gateshead-BNG	54.2	27.8	18.1	72
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>47.9</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>138,873</i>

Note: Base = people aged 16-74. Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where: Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ; Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1). 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ; Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ; Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND etc.

Table 6.8: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
Bangladeshi	BNG	9.2	16.6	5.0	1.5	7.4	4.4	3.5	11.5	23.8	5.9	11.3	1,221
	Newcastle-BNG	9.2	16.0	5.3	1.6	6.7	4.7	3.7	11.6	24.0	6.2	11.0	1,156
	Gateshead-BNG	9.2	27.7	0.0	0.0	18.5	0.0	0.0	9.2	18.5	0.0	16.9	65
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>31.9</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>138,930</i>

Table 6.9: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long- term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
Bangladeshi	BNG	3.3	6.5	6.0	8.7	6.6	22.4	5.5	41.1	38.3	2.9	912
	Newcastle-BNG	3.5	6.5	5.6	9.1	6.6	21.7	5.8	41.4	38.7	2.6	868
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	6.8	13.6	0.0	6.8	36.4	0.0	36.4	29.5	6.8	44
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>6.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>93,602</i>

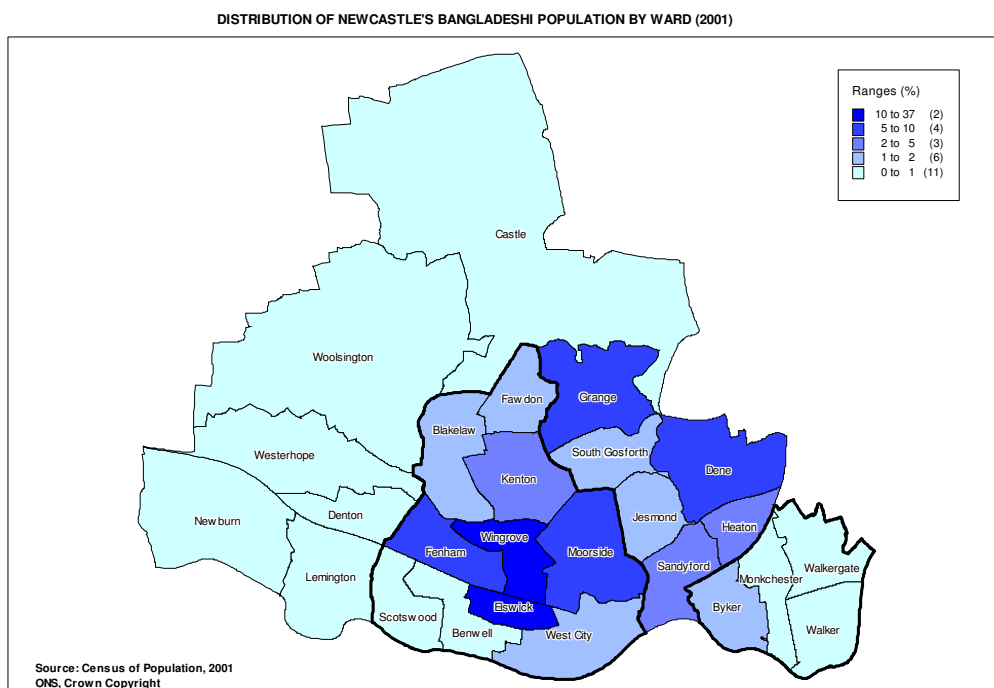
6.3. Residential Settlement Patterns

This section profiles the residential settlement patterns of the Bangladeshi population within the BNG area.

The Bangladeshi population of Newcastle and Gateshead is concentrated in the BNG area. According to the 2001 Census of Population, three quarters (76 per cent) of the Bangladeshi population of Newcastle resides in the 14 local authority wards that (for analytical purposes) constitute the Newcastle BNG area (Table 10). The majority of Bangladeshi households living outside the BNG area are living in wards immediately adjacent to the housing market renewal area, for example, in Grange, Dene, Sandyford and Heaton.

Table 6.10: Residential Distribution of the Newcastle Bangladeshi Population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Bangladeshi Population
Benwell	0.8
Blakelaw	1.1
Byker	1.7
Elswick	36.5
Fawdon	1.3
Fenham	6.3
Kenton	2.3
Monkchester	0.2
Moorside	9.3
Scotswood	1.0
Walker	0.5
Walkergate	1.0
West City	1.3
Wingrove	12.9
Castle	0.6
Dene	5.0
Denton	0.8
Grange	6.5
Heaton	3.5
Jesmond	1.3
Lemington	0.8
Newburn	0.2
Sandyford	3.0
South Gosforth	1.5
Westerhope	0.1
Woolsington	0.3
Newcastle	100.0
<i>Total Number of People</i>	<i>2,607</i>



Within the Newcastle BNG area, 85 per cent of the Bangladeshi population were clustered in just four co-terminus wards (Elswick, Wingrove, Moorside and Fenham), with almost half (47.8 per cent) of the population living in Elswick (Table 12)

Table 6.11: Residential Distribution of Newcastle BNG Bangladeshi population, by Ward

Ward	% of Bangladeshi Population
Benwell	1.1
Blakelaw	1.4
Byker	2.3
Elswick	47.8
Fawdon	1.7
Fenham	8.3
Kenton	3.1
Monkchester	0.3
Moorside	12.2
Scotswood	1.3
Walker	0.7
Walkergate	1.3
West City	1.8
Wingrove	16.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>

In Gateshead, the Bangladeshi population was also clustered in the BNG area. In 2001, 81 per cent of the Bangladeshi population of Gateshead resided in the seven local authority wards that make up the BNG area. A further 10.5 per cent were living immediately adjacent to the Gateshead BNG area in Whickham North (Table 12 and Figure 2).

Within the Gateshead BNG area, in 2001 almost two-thirds of the Bangladeshi population were living in the three co-terminus wards of Bensham, Saltwell and Deckham. A further 18.5 per cent were living in Dunston. Interestingly, no Bangladeshi people were recorded as living

in Teams, which lies between Dunston and the cluster of three wards where the bulk of the Bangladeshi population resided.

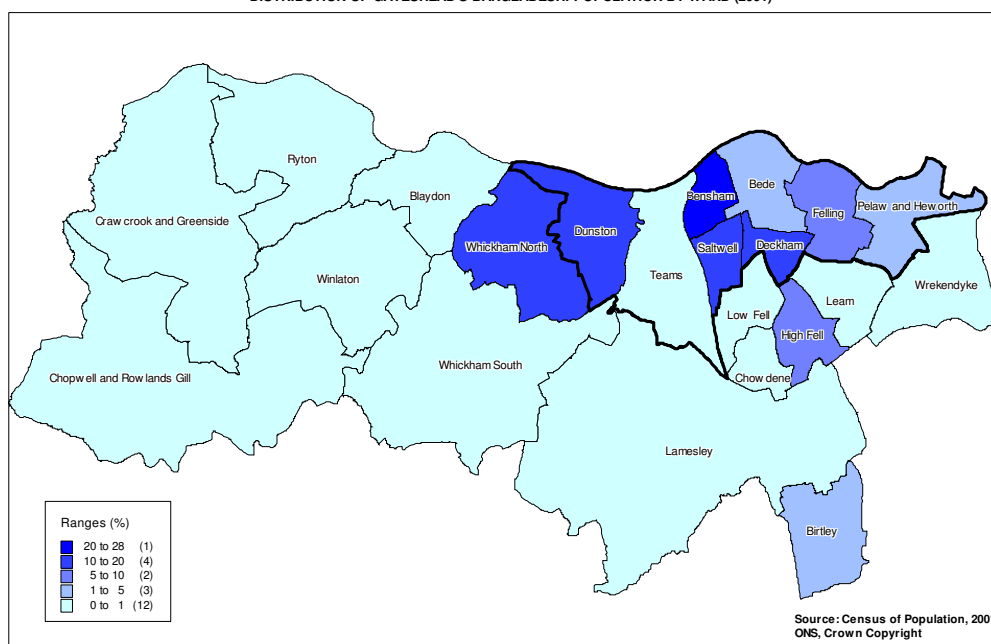
Table 6.12: Residential Distribution of the Gateshead Bangladeshi Population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Bangladeshi Population
Bede	2.6
Bensham	27.2
Deckham	10.5
Dunston	14.9
Felling	8.8
Pelaw and Heworth	2.6
Saltwell	14.0
Teams	0.0
Birtley	2.6
Blaydon	0.0
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	0.0
Chowdene	0.0
Crawcrook and Greenside	0.0
High Fell	6.1
Lamesley	0.0
Leam	0.0
Low Fell	0.0
Ryton	0.0
Whickham North	10.5
Whickham South	0.0
Winlaton	0.0
Wrekendyke	0.0
Gateshead	100.0
<i>Total Number of People</i>	<i>120</i>

Table 6.13: Residential Distribution of Gateshead BNG Bangladeshi population by Ward

Ward	% of Bangladeshi Population
Bede	3.3
Bensham	33.7
Deckham	13.0
Dunston	18.5
Felling	10.9
Pelaw and Heworth	3.3
Saltwell	17.4
Teams	0.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>

DISTRIBUTION OF GATESHEAD'S BANGLADESHI POPULATION BY WARD (2001)



6.4. Housing Situations

The following section discusses the housing situations of the Bangladeshi population of the BNG area and reflects on the condition and suitability of current accommodation settings of Bangladeshi households.

In 2001, a relatively large proportion of the Bangladeshi population of the BNG area (82.0 per cent) were living in a house or bungalow and a relatively small proportion were living in flat accommodation. Less than half of these people (41.6 per cent) were living in owner occupied accommodation, while a relatively large proportion were living in rented accommodation (54.8 per cent). In addition, 3.6 per cent of Bangladeshi people were recorded by the 2001 Census as living rent free. Bangladeshi residents of the BNG area were more likely than the wider population of the area to be living in private rented and other social rented (housing association) accommodation, but less likely to be living in council housing.

Awareness of and access to social renting (Gateshead Housing Company and housing association accommodation) were discussed during the focus group with Bangladeshi people in Gateshead. None of the participants were currently residing in social rented accommodation. A common concern when discussing the opportunities provided by the social rented sector was the perceived isolation from key services and facilities associated with living in the sector, given the perceived location of available accommodation. Concern was also expressed about living in high rise blocks and in neighbourhoods perceived to have problems with crime and anti-social behaviour. Concern was also raised about the time associated with receiving a second offer if the first proved unsatisfactory. Participants also provided second-hand accounts of people with limited English language skills experiencing problems accessing social rented accommodation and newly married couples were reported to encounter problems moving out of the family home. At the same time, however, focus group participants reflected on the inadequacies of the private rented sector, reported concerns including poor conditions, bad landlords and financial problems associated with the failure of Housing Benefit to cover the full rent.

Table 6.14: Housing Tenure

		Owens outright	Owens with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
Bangladeshi	BNG	5.8	35.8	0.1	27.6	9.5	17.5	3.6	0.0	2,087
	Newcastle-BNG	6.0	35.8	0.2	27.4	9.5	17.7	3.6	0.0	1,994
	Gateshead-BNG	3.2	37.6	0.0	31.2	9.7	15.1	3.2	0.0	93
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,138</i>

Table 6.15: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
Bangladeshi	BNG	82.0	17.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	2,081
	Newcastle-BNG	81.7	18.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	1,989
	Gateshead-BNG	88.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	92
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

6.5. Housing Conditions and Suitability

Bangladeshi households in the BNG area are often living in unsuitable accommodation and experiencing poor housing conditions. According to the 2001 Census, more than one-third (36.9 per cent) of Bangladeshi households in the BNG area experience housing deprivation (accommodation is either overcrowded, or is in a shared dwelling, or do not have sole use of bathroom/shower and toilet, or has no central heating), compared to 13.8 per cent of all households in the area (Table 16). Overcrowding is a particularly acute problem, one-third (31.9 per cent) of all Bangladeshi households living in overcrowded accommodation in 2001, compared to 9 per cent of all households in the area (Table 17).

Table 6.16: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bangladeshi	172	36.9	166	37.7	6	23.1
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 6.17: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bangladeshi	148	31.9	145	33.5	3	9.7
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

Note: A household is overcrowded if it has a negative occupancy rating. The occupancy rating is a measure of under-occupancy and overcrowding which relates the number of rooms to the number of 'required' rooms based on the age, gender and relationship between household members.

These poor housing conditions were reflected in the levels of dissatisfaction with current housing situation reported by the 22 Bangladeshi people interviewed in the Newcastle part of the BNG area. 8 of the 22 respondents were very or quite dissatisfied with their current accommodation and 11 out of 22 expressed dissatisfaction with the state of repair of their current accommodation. But, 13 reported that they were very or fairly satisfied with their current accommodation. Reflecting these concerns, an improvement in living conditions and relocation to a larger property were the two most common responses among respondents when asked what changes would most improve their current housing situation. Interview respondents and focus group participants, alike, identified overcrowding as a key concern. One in three Bangladeshi respondents in Newcastle identified a change in the size of their accommodation as a key way of improving their current housing situation, while focus group participants in Gateshead talked at length about the problems that families with two or more children were experiencing living in Tyneside flats, which were "*well maintained but ... just too small, so it's overcrowded.*" Other common responses from respondents in Newcastle when asked what changes would improve their current housing situation included (in order of popularity) moving to a property with a garden, escaping neighbourhood problems, moving to a different house and living in a house with suitable adaptations.

Dissatisfaction with current accommodation was reflected in the fact that 15 of the 22 respondents in Newcastle stated that they would like to move house in the next two years. Explaining the reasons for wanting to move, virtually all of these respondents referred to property related drivers of mobility, rather than neighbourhood related factors. In total eight out of 15 respondents cited the need for a larger property as a key reason for wanting to move and an identical number referred to the need to escape poor living conditions as a reason for wanting to move.

Table 6.18: Reasons for wanting to move (Newcastle interviewees who indicated they wanted to move in the next 2 years)

	Cited as a reason
Escape poor living conditions	8
Move into a bigger property	8
Change tenure	0
Have a bigger garden	5
Move to a different street	2
Move to a different neighbourhood	5
Be nearer family	0
Move away from family	0
Be nearer friends/associates	1
Move away from friends/associates	0
Be nearer services/facilities	1
Move nearer employment	1
Move nearer school	0
Other (homelessness, safer area)	2

6.6. Neighbourhood Situations and Experiences

In contrast to the problems and concerns raised by interview respondents and focus group participants regarding their current housing situation, relatively high levels of satisfaction were reported with their neighbourhood. Respondents in Newcastle, the majority of whom were currently living in Elswick and neighbourhood areas, readily identified positive aspects of their current neighbourhood that they would miss if they moved elsewhere.

Table 6.19: Things Newcastle Interviewees most like about living in their neighbourhood

	Number of respondents who mentioned this reason (N= 21)
Local services and facilities (and proximity to these)	18
Friends and family nearby	11
Friendliness/Sense of community	4
Other	3
Transport/links to other areas	2
Property	1
Employment	0
Security/personal safety	0
Nothing	0

Table 6.20: Things Newcastle Interviewees would miss about their neighbourhood if they moved somewhere else in Newcastle/Gateshead

	Number of respondents who mentioned this reason (N= 20)
Local facilities and services	13
Friends and family nearby	10
Property	3
Other	2
Friendliness/sense of community	1
Employment	1
Transport/links to other areas	0
Environment	0
Security/personal safety	0
Nothing	0

The availability and quality of local facilities and services, along with having friends and family nearby were the main aspects which interviewees liked about their neighbourhoods. Indeed one interviewee, living in Elswick said:

"I would never move out of the area because I need the services: the shops and the mosque."

Discussion among focus group participants in Gateshead picked up on many of the same issues. Many of these factors were not culturally specific, but were rooted in the practicalities of everyday life. For example, participants currently living in Bensham talked about the convenience of key services and facilities, including schools and shops, being within easy reach:

"Shopping is near ... my business is near my house, shopping is near and everything is near." (Bangladeshi man)

"My children's school is five minutes away. My business is five minutes away as well ... the shopping is so close." (Bangladeshi man)

Despite these positive attitudes to the Elswick area of Newcastle and Bensham in Gateshead, interview respondents and focus group participants also highlighted a series of problems in their area. Common among these were safety concerns and dissatisfaction with housing.

Table 6.21: Things Newcastle Interviewees most dislike about living in their neighbourhood

	Number of respondents who mentioned this reason (N= 19)
Safety concerns	4
Housing and property	4
Lack of/poor facilities and services	2
Traffic issues	2
Environmental issues	1
Quality of life	1
Other	1
Racism/racial harassment	0
Nothing	2

In addition, although Elswick and Bensham were typically perceived as locations where Bangladeshi people were relatively safe, compared to many other residential areas of Newcastle and Gateshead, respondents did report being the victims of racial abuse harassment. Among the 22 Newcastle respondents, nine reported that they had experienced racial harassment at least once in the last 12 months. Most of the incidents took place in or around the home. Name calling was the most common form of harassment, but muggings, stone throwing, damage to cars and break-ins were also reported. The majority of the nine respondents who had been the victim of racial harassment reported that they had experienced harassment on more than one occasion in the past 12 months. Incidents had been reported to the Police or to a community group. Nine respondents reported that they had adapted their behaviour and use of space in a bid to limit the likelihood of experiencing racial harassment. Actions taken were:

- avoiding journeys on foot, whenever possible
- not going out alone - *"I never walk by myself because I am frightened"*
- taking a route that avoids particular areas or locations
- avoiding specific individuals and certain scenarios, where problems are perceived likely to arise - *"I move out of the way when I see groups of people."*

Experiences of and perceptions of the problem of racial harassment varied between respondents depending upon their area of residence. Ten of the 13 respondents who reported that racial harassment was a serious problem in their area were living in Elswick. In contrast, neither of the two respondents living in Arthurs Hill reported that harassment was a problem in their local neighbourhood.

The consensus among focus group participants in Gateshead was that racial harassment is a concern but not a serious problem in the Bensham area. All the focus group participants had experienced some form of racial harassment in the past year and name calling, bullying and graffiti were reported to be weekly phenomena. No one, however, reported having experienced more serious forms of racial abuse, including physical assault. Participants suggested that harassment had not escalated into violence because of the way in which they managed the problem through their reaction, remaining quiet and not responding when provoked:

"... we are quiet and leave the place, so that's why nothing's happened"

"... even some time when they bullying we not reply, just ignore it"

Participants also talk about minimising the risk of harassment, for example, by avoiding certain areas, particularly after dark.

Only one participant reported having approached the Police regarding the harassment he was experiencing and expressed concern that nothing was done in response:

6.7. Housing Aspirations, Choices and Actions

Levels of owner occupation are relatively low among the Bangladeshi population of the BNG area, but owner occupation was still reported to be the preferred tenure by interview respondents and focus group participants. Many recognised, however, that home ownership was an unrealistic option for either themselves or their children, given available resources and income levels and rising house prices. Among the 22 Bangladeshi respondents in Newcastle, nine indicated that they would prefer owner occupation but that they were currently unable to pursue this option. Among the 11 respondents that indicated a willingness to consider living in rented accommodation, Your Homes Newcastle was the preferred landlord. No respondents indicated a willingness to consider living in private rented accommodation.

Focus group participants in Gateshead were all currently living in owner occupied accommodation. Discussion within the group regarding housing choices focused on the problems that young Bangladeshi people were now facing getting a foot on the property ladder, in the context of rising house prices. Participants reflected on rapid house price rises in Gateshead in recent years:

"Not like in London ... less for the price ... but still we feel it is really expensive for us."

Even Tyneside flats were reported to be beyond the reach of a working person on minimum wage. However, participants reported that their children did not want to remain within the parental home. Consequently, they were having to consider renting. Little interest was reported in the opportunities available in the private rented sector, affordability being a key concern:

"Again it is difficult to rent it as well because the rent in a Tyneside flat is at least £100 a week so they need to make £200 on top again."

"... the people who are [on] the minimum wages or less than the minimum wages, if there are council house there they can apply for the council houses and they can pay less rent because private rented house or flat is expensive, more expensive than a council's one, so that's where only the council can help on that, to build more houses."

The clear preference was for renting from the local authority or a housing association.

Reflecting further on the housing problems facing younger people, focus group participants expressed concern that difficulties securing a suitable place to live could lead to social problems and depression among their children's generation. It was suggested that central and local government should take action to address the problem. The future of council housing was at the forefront of people's thoughts when reflecting on this point.

"And again because the council are to build more houses because day by day there's less council houses now at the moment because those people who used to live in council houses they bought it, most of the people they bought it."

"... council are selling it and council aren't building any more new houses."

Interview respondents and focus group participants were questioned regarding their attitudes toward and likely take-up of various initiatives intended to widen access to home ownership. Self-build was a popular option, but was often not considered a viable or realistic option. Mortgage products tailored to specific religious beliefs were a popular option that might help open up owner occupation to Bangladeshi households, while equity share and shared ownership were less popular options. A focus group participant also made an appeal for improvement grants to help improve living conditions for households already resident in the owner occupied sector.

Table 6.22

	Yes	No	Don't know
Mortgages which reflect specific religious beliefs	16	3	1
Discounted home ownership	11	9	2
Self-build	11	10	1
Shared ownership	7	14	1
Equity share	4	11	2

Interview respondents were asked about their 'ideal house': the location, tenure, size and any design or cultural requirements. In Newcastle, the majority (15) of respondents indicated that ideally they would own their property, but four wanted to rent from the council. Fourteen out of 19 respondents reported that their ideal house would have four or more bedrooms, and as Table 23 reveals, Fenham was a very popular location for Bangladeshis living in Newcastle and few interviewees wished to move far.

Table 6.23: Location of ideal house

Location	Number of respondents (N=19)
Fenham	13
Elswick	7
Grainger Park	3
Benwell	3
Arthurs Hill	1
North Benwell	1

The provision of separate communal rooms for men and women was mentioned by nine of the 16 interview respondents and around a third of respondents wanted a prayer room.

Table 6.24: Cultural requirements

	Number of respondents (N=16)
2 reception rooms/separate living room and dining room	9
Prayer room	6
2 bathrooms/2 toilets or downstairs toilet	5
Near Bangladeshi community/family	2
Guest bedrooms	1

6.8. Neighbourhood Attitudes and Preferences

Bangladeshi interview respondents in Newcastle and focus group participants in Gateshead were questioned about their attitudes toward and perceptions regarding particular parts of the BNG area and their willingness to consider living in these locations. They were also asked about the potential of BNG's strategic commissions within these locations to impact upon their willingness to consider living in these areas. The discussion below details the comments of Bangladeshi respondents regarding five specific locations in the Newcastle BNG area where interventions are focused:

- Benwell and Scotswood
- Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill
- Discovery Quarter
- Walker Riverside
- Byker and Ouseburn

And four locations in the Gateshead BNG area:

- Dunston
- Teams
- Bensham and Saltwell
- Felling Bypass Corridor

6.8.1. Newcastle

Fifteen of the 22 Bangladeshi respondents in Newcastle indicated that they wanted to move house in the next two years. The majority (9) of these respondents wanted to remain within their current areas of residence. Those who were keen to move to a new area were rarely interested in moving far, indicating a desire to move to a neighbouring area, with Fenham being the most common preference. The popularity of Fenham, and also Grainger Park, was reported to be due to respondents' familiarity with these areas, the fact that some family or friends were already resident in the area and the improved housing and neighbourhood environment they provide. Various barriers were preventing respondents acting on these preferences. These included the lack of alternative or more suitable accommodation, caring responsibilities that tied respondents to their current area of residence, concerns about services, facilities and associated opportunities in other areas, financial constraints and the need to be close to a place of employment.

These factors emerged as important when respondents were asked about their attitudes toward living in different parts of the Newcastle BNG area. Areas of established Bangladeshi settlement proved the most popular locations in the Newcastle BNG area. Areas in the east of the BNG area (Walker Riverside, Byker and Ouseburn) were the least popular, with no sign that improvements in these locations could increase the willingness of Bangladeshi households to consider living in areas.

NEWCASTLE					
Would you consider living in the following areas?					
	Yes	No	Perhaps	Don't know	Most common reasons for not considering the area
Benwell and Scotswood	2	15	4	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perceived social problems too far away from current areas of settlement and associated facilities
Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill	12	5	4	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assorted reasons poor housing lack of facilities
Discovery Quarter	12	7	0	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uncertainty about the area environmental concerns: noise, pollution, parking
Walker Riverside	1	17	0	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> too far away from city centre
Byker and Ouseburn	0	18	0	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> too far from key services and facilities
Other area of interest to Bangladeshis:					
Fenham (4); Wingrove (2); Gosforth (1), the Grainger Park Estate (1), the West Road (1) and near the Westgate Community College (1)					

BENWELL AND SCOTSWOOD	
Popularity	The Benwell and Scotswood areas were not popular among Bangladeshi respondents. Many (15) respondents indicated that they would not, under any circumstances, consider moving into the area. As one respondent put it <i>"couldn't do anything to make me go there."</i> Asked where they would never consider living in Newcastle, five respondents mentioned Scotswood and three referred to Benwell as areas they would never consider living.
Deterrent	The main deterrents undercutting enthusiasm for the area were the perception that the area suffers from social problems and the fact that the area is too far away from current areas of settlement and associated facilities and social networks (<i>"it is too isolated"</i>).
Changing Attitudes	<p>Asked about the likely impact of various housing focused improvements in the area on their willingness to consider moving into Benwell and Scotswood, only eight of the 19 respondents indicated that such developments would change their attitude toward moving into the area. Among these eight respondents the most popular proposals were the provision of more family housing (5), replacing poor quality or less popular housing with new build (5), provision of more social (housing association) housing (4) and work to improve the reputation of the area (4). Two interviewees reported less social housing would have a positive impact on their willingness to consider the area and two argued the regulation of private landlords and improvements to the PRS would make them more willing to consider living in the area.</p> <p>There were, however, some positive responses to proposed improvements in the area. In particular, the provision of family housing and the generation of a greater social mix emerged as key attractions:</p> <p><i>"If Scotswood had nice family housing I would love to move there. The view is beautiful - the river and the bridge and the hilly area."</i></p> <p><i>"Would move if family could move too".</i></p> <p><i>"Much greater mix of housing and families."</i></p> <p>The principal concern for most respondents, however, remained the perceived neighbourhood issues of crime and security and the lack of facilities:</p> <p><i>"Would move to Benwell tomorrow if it had good facilities and was safe."</i></p> <p>The need for improved shopping facilities, a commercial centre and a business centre, along with better public transport were the key suggestions for improving the attractiveness of the area. Still, nine respondents were unable to suggest any development or improvement that would make them more likely to consider living in Benwell and Scotswood.</p>

ELSWICK/NORTH BENWELL/ARTHURS HILL	
Popularity	<p>More than half (12) of the Bangladeshi respondents indicated that they would consider living in Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill. However, asked where they would never consider living in Newcastle, four respondents identified Cruddas Park, two referred to North Benwell and three mentioned Elswick.</p> <p>Attitudes to the area were found to vary dramatically, a subtle racialisation of space being apparent within respondents' comments. To summarise, while North Elswick was often regarded as an 'Asian' area, South Elswick was regarded as a 'white' area. Benwell, meanwhile, was reported to be a more diverse or ethnically mixed area: <i>"... would consider Elswick because it has three mosques. North and South Benwell are good for Bangladeshi people."</i></p> <p>One respondent suggested that Mill Lane represented a racial dividing line between areas.</p>
Deterrent	<p>There was no real consensus among respondents about why they would not consider living in the Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill area. The most common response related to poor housing conditions, but only four respondents referred to this issue. Other comments included the lack of facilities and isolation from social networks and community facilities. For respondents it was merely that they preferred other areas to the exclusion of this area.</p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>Asked about the likely impact of various housing focused improvements planned or ongoing in the area on their willingness to consider moving into Elswick, Benwell and Arthurs Hill the replacement of older houses with newly built properties emerged as the most popular improvement, 13 out of 22 respondents indicating that this intervention would make them more likely to consider living in the area. Nine respondents were positive about plans to refurbish selected properties and five were positive about plans for greater regulation of private landlords and improvements to private rented accommodation.</p> <p>Asked what additional improvements could make them more likely to consider living in the area, respondents focused on interventions designed to tackle the social problems perceived to exist in the area, rather than housing issues. These included: tackling anti-social behaviour, perhaps through the introduction of more neighbourhood wardens (5); more mixed community (2); no racism (1); cleaner streets (2); improved parking (2); open spaces, for example a nice park (2); build Bangladeshi shops (1) and; if there were more newly-built properties (1). Seven respondents reported that there was nothing that could be done to make them consider living in Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill.</p> <p>Further questioning about the impact of targeted interventions revealed differing attitudes to different parts of the area. Although 13 out of 22 respondents had reported that the development of new houses could lead them to consider moving into the area, half of all Bangladeshi respondents indicated that they would not consider moving to Westmorland Road (South Elswick) if new houses were built there. Indeed, only six respondents, all of whom were already living in the vicinity, indicated any interest in these new developments.</p> <p>Several people commented that it would be convenient if there were more 'Asian shops' around Adelaide Terrace, but the consensus appeared to be that such improvements: <i>"makes it a more attractive place, but not sufficient to make me want to live there."</i></p>

DISCOVERY QUARTER (including the Brewery Site)	
Popularity	<p>The Discovery Quarter was relatively popular among Bangladeshi respondents, more than half (12) indicating that they would consider living in the area. The popularity of the area was related to both its location close to the opportunities available in the city centre and key services and facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to town (3) • Good transport links (2) • Not too far from Asian areas (1) • Near shops, hospital and other facilities (3) • Job opportunities (1) • Improved personal safety - higher level of policing, better reputation (2)
Deterrent	<p>Only seven people indicated that they would not consider living in the area, key concerns being uncertainty about the area and what it has to offer and worries about living close to the city centre and the associated problems of traffic, noise, pollution and parking. One respondent also referred to the problem of isolation. In contrast to some other areas, no concerns were raised regarding social problems in the area.</p>
Changing Attitudes	N/A

WALKER RIVERSIDE	
Popularity	<p>Few Bangladeshi households currently live in the eastern segment of the Newcastle BNG area and there was little interest among respondents in moving into this area. Only one out of 22 respondents indicated that they would consider living in Walker Riverside. A further four people reported that they did not know anything about the area and could not comment.</p>
Deterrent	<p>The main factor undercutting interest in Walker Riverside appeared to be its location, across the other side of the city centre from the established areas of Bangladeshi settlement where respondents were currently living. The area was reported to be too far away from the familiar surroundings, key facilities and social networks rooted in established areas of settlement:</p> <p><i>"It is not for our people. Elswick is our area and we have built it up over years."</i></p> <p>There was also some concern that Walker Riverside was a 'bad area', although some (4) respondents admitted knowing little or nothing about the area. Respondents were therefore unable to perceive any benefits associated with moving to the area.</p>
Changing Attitudes	N/A

BYKER AND OUSEBURN	
Popularity	None of the 22 Bangladeshi respondents said they would consider living in Byker and Ouseburn.
Deterrent	As with Walker Riverside, the main concern was that the area, located east of the city centre, was too far away from key services and facilities and social networks upon which respondents rely. Many interviewees did not make any distinction between Walker and Byker.
Changing Attitudes	N/A

Respondents were asked whether there were any other areas of Newcastle that they would consider living in, particularly if there were housing and neighbourhood improvements of the kind discussed above. Fenham was the most popular location (4 respondents indicating an interest in moving to the area), along with Wingrove (2). Other areas referred to included: Gosforth, the Grainger Park Estate, the West Road and near the Westgate Community College.

6.8.2. Gateshead

Focus group participants were reluctant to consider living in areas with little or no history of Bangladeshi settlement. Teams was a particularly unpopular location. However, participants were positive about the potential for various interventions to increase interest in living in all parts of the Gateshead BNG area.

GATESHEAD	
Would you consider living in the following areas?	
	Reasons why not (most popular responses)
Dunston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor reputation • lack of diversity in housing stock
Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • isolation from Bangladeshi community
Felling Bypass corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor reputation
Bensham and Saltwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulties accessing suitable accommodation
Other area of interest to Bangladeshis:	
Sheriff Hill	

DUNSTON	
Popularity	Dunston was not a favoured area of settlement for focus group participants, but the possibility of living in the area was not dismissed out right.
Deterrent	Dunston was reported to have a poor reputation. A lack of diversity in the local stock (size, design and tenure) also appeared to be a concern. Housing association rents were also thought to be relatively high in the area.
Changing Attitudes	Participants felt that the demolition of less popular housing, including Dunston Tower, and its replacement by developments of new housing would definitely make Dunston more attractive to Bangladeshi people. More family housing and ensuring private landlords maintain standards in the private rented sector were also identified as interventions likely to increase interest in the area.

BENSHAM AND SALTWELL	
Popularity	Bensham and Saltwell is an area of established Bangladeshi settlement and emerged as the most popular residential locations in the Gateshead BNG area among focus group participants. Key attributes of the area included available services and facilities and established social networks.
Deterrent	<p>Although the area was popular with participants, a number of problems were identified, that were undercutting commitment to the area. Key among these were the difficulties of accessing suitable accommodation. A particular was that young people forming families had little choice within the area and were being forced to look elsewhere:</p> <p><i>"But then again because of the Tyneside flat ... after two or three years the family expand and you know they try to move out, so they've no choice, they have to go to ... or Sheriff Hill."</i></p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>Focus group participants were enthusiastic about the proposal to build new properties with gardens on Saltwell Road. Knocking through Tyneside flats to create six-bedroom properties was also considered to be an important development:</p> <p><i>"That would be really helpful, people would jump in there ... yes, exactly, that's what they want."</i></p> <p>However, participants suggested refurbishing existing properties on Westbourne Avenue and Saltwell Road would do little to address Bangladeshi housing needs, as the properties would still be too small. Participants also reported concerns about social problems around particular parts of the area:</p> <p><i>"If you walk through that way there's always so many people they are sitting outside the doorstep and drinking over there and some times we are frightened to walk that way."</i></p> <p><i>"It is difficult to live in those areas".</i></p> <p>Three other priorities for action identified by participants were a focus on the provision of houses, rather than flats, which were reported to be incompatible with Bangladeshi lifestyles (e.g. use of the home and working patterns, such working late shifts), the provision of more open and green spaces in the area and improved parking.</p> <p>The Bangladeshi interviewees also talked about the need for a community centre in the area.</p>

TEAMS	
Popularity	No focus group participants reported any interest in living in Teams and suggested that no other Bangladeshi people they knew were likely to consider moving into the area.
Deterrent	The unpopularity of Teams among participants appeared to be related to the isolation associated with living in the area, given the absence of any other Bangladeshi residents.
Changing Attitudes	<p>When asked about planned improvements in Teams, participants suggested that the creation of new housing opportunities in the area would probably lead some Bangladeshi people to consider living there. The refurbishment of selected properties, for example on Bensham Crescent, were mentioned as a positive development, but the replacement of old houses with newly built properties, for example on Dixon Street, was regarded as more significant.</p> <p>Asked what changes might lead them to consider living in Teams, focus groups participants reported being encouraged by the possibility of new developments, such as the Staiths South Bank development of around 700 homes on the riverside, which offer new housing opportunities and rebalance the social mix. Respondents also suggested that the area could benefit from measures to improve community relations.</p>

FELLING BYPASS CORRIDOR	
Popularity	The Felling Bypass Corridor was not a popular area among focus group participants. Participants were agreed, however, that the area had recently improved, following the demolition of older properties and the development of new properties, and that the area now provided opportunities relevant to Bangladeshi households.
Deterrent	The key deterrent limiting enthusiasm for the Felling area was the areas bad reputation. The location was regarded as being rough and home to various social problems that limited participant interest in living in the area. In particular, Old Fold, the area between Sunderland Road and the Felling Bypass, was identified as being rough, although this reputation was improving as a result of ongoing developments in the area.
Changing Attitudes	<p>Various improvements are proposed in the Felling Bypass Corridor by BNG and the Local Authority, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replacement of old houses with newly built properties (Sunderland Road), • greater regulation of private landlords, • the development of new housing for sale and renting, • replacement of unpopular flats with new housing (Brandling estate) and • improvements to Felling town centre and local services <p>Focus group participants reported that this package of interventions would undoubtedly make the area more attractive to Bangladeshi households. An additional proposal was the provision of off-road car-parking.</p>

Asked if they would consider moving to any other part of the Gateshead BNG area if similar improvements took place, Sheriff Hill was the only area referred to, because it was nearby and convenient for accessing services and facilities and friends and relatives.

6.9. Opening up New Developments to Bangladeshi Households

Recognising the difficulties that minority ethnic groups in the UK have often encountered securing access to the opportunities provided by new housing developments, interview respondents and focus group participants were asked to comment on a number of possible interventions that might be actioned in a bid to improve access.

As is often the case with such questions, there was a tendency for respondents to respond positively to virtually all of the options presented. Some useful insights are discernable, however. First, it is striking that respondents were concerned with the full range of interventions, from stock size, design, tenure, through marketing and tenancy support, to neighbourhood management. Second, two issues that have been revealed above as important determinants of attitudes to different locations within the BNG area emerge as key factors; safety and security and accessibility, as indicated by the importance placed on public transport.

Table 6.25: Attitudes of Bangladeshi Respondents (Newcastle) to Different Interventions likely to Improve Uptake of New Development Opportunities

	Yes	No	Don't know
Improved safety and security	17	2	3
Improved public transport	17	2	3
Marketing/information sharing	14	5	3
Guided tours of the area and development	14	4	3
Opportunities for friends/family to move together into a new area	14	1	7
Job opportunities	14	5	3
Improvements in local schools	14	5	3
Information on local services, resources, transport connections	13	5	4
Properties for larger families	13	5	4
Culturally sensitive design features	12	6	3
Community involvement in planning for the area	11	7	4
Opportunities to own your own home	11	6	5
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups in the area	10	7	5
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	9	6	7
Help to settle in a new area	7	8	6
Opportunities to rent from a HA	4	13	4

Focus group participants in Gateshead were keen to be involved in the planning process, not least so that they could explain their need for culturally sensitive design features, something that was reported to be lacking from many new build properties. For example, it was suggested that many new build properties have an open-plan living room, which is not be suitable, Bangladeshis households preferring two separate communal rooms with separate entrances. Participants also suggested that Bangladeshi households would like space for a prayer room and a separate toilet. Participants described how older properties were more appropriate as the rooms are larger and there is more storage space. Location was also identified as key. One participant, for example, described how the need to be near family had led him to forgo a 'better' house in a neighbouring area:

"... actually I used to live about four miles away in Whickham, still just a council area but my parents are living round here, that's why I moved over here, but still this house is smaller than my other one but still ..."

Reflecting on this experience, participants were supportive of the idea of group settlement, whereby a number of families are assisted to move together into a new area. Other comments were supportive of low cost home ownership initiatives

Indian Residential Situations and Experiences

7.1. Introduction

This discussion of the residential situations and experiences of the Indian population of the BNG area draws on information and evidence from two sources:

- *face-to-face interviews with seven Indian people living within the **Gateshead** part of the BNG area¹⁵* - all the respondents were born outside the UK. Four respondents had been in the UK for over 15 years and were British citizens. Two were new immigrants - one respondent had entered on a marriage visa or as a dependent child, the other was an asylum seeker. All the respondents were aged between 30 and 64 and six respondents were married or in a long-term relationship. Five of the seven respondents had dependent children living with them. Half of those interviewed were currently working (4), two were retired and one was unemployed and available for work. Five of the respondents reported that their religion was Hindu and two identified their religion as Sikh. Asked their first language, three said Hindi, two Punjabi and two English. An interpreter was present for four of the interviews. Five of the seven respondents indicated that they or a member of their household a health problem, long-term illness or disability which limits their daily activities and the work they can do. The length of time respondents had been resident in Gateshead varied from five years to over twenty years. Respondents had moved to Gateshead from various locations including direct from India (2), Newcastle (2) and London (1). All the respondents who stated where they were living in Gateshead were living in Bensham and all were owner occupiers, with the exception of the asylum seeker who was living in NASS accommodation
- the 2001 and the 1991 Census of Population, which provide profile information regarding the settlement experiences and housing situations of the Indian population.

7.2. The Indian Population

Census data suggest that in 2001 there were 1,694 Indians living in the BNG area, with 87 per cent living north of the river in Newcastle. Indians are the third largest minority ethnic group in Newcastle, but the fourth largest minority ethnic group in the BNG area.

Table 7.1: Number of people

	Number of people	Percentage of Minority Ethnic Population	Percentage of Total Population
BNG Area	1,694	9.6	0.9
Newcastle BNG	1,468	10.5	1.2
Gateshead BNG	226	6.2	0.3

Between 1991 and 2001 the Indian population in the BNG area grew by 369 representing a 27.8 per cent increase. This rate of population increase was apparent within Gateshead (28.7 per cent increase) and Newcastle (22.8 per cent).

¹⁵ The Indian population was not one of the ethnic groups specifically targeted for interviewing in Gateshead or Newcastle but in the course of conducting fieldwork in Gateshead a number of Indian residents attended interviewing sessions and were keen to participate. Hence only seven interviews were carried out, all in Gateshead, compared to the 15 interviews undertaken with targeted groups.

Table 7.2: Population Change between 1991 and 2001

	BNG area			Newcastle-BNG			Gateshead-BNG		
	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change
Indian	1,325	1,694	27.8	1,141	1,468	28.7	184	226	22.8
All people	202,314	192,117	-5.0	133,580	127,276	-4.7	68,734	64,841	-5.7

The Indian population of the BNG area is relatively young. Eighty-five per cent of Indian people were under 50 years old in 2001, compared to some 70 per cent of all BNG residents. Some variations in the age profile of Indian people were apparent between Newcastle and Gateshead BNG areas, as revealed in Table 7.2.

Table 7.3: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Indian	BNG area	23.8	19.0	42.2	6.3	3.2	4.4	1.2	1,693
	Newcastle-BNG	23.2	20.1	41.9	6.1	3.5	3.9	1.4	1,470
	Gateshead-BNG	27.8	11.7	43.9	7.6	1.3	7.6	0.0	223
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

The number of Indian people aged between 65 to 74 years old in Gateshead-BNG increased dramatically between 1991 and 2001, by 325 per cent. In Newcastle-BNG the most dramatic growth in population was recorded within the 16 to 24 year old age bracket.

Table 7.4: Change in the age structure of the population between 1991 and 2001

Percentage change in size of population		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Indian	BNG area	6.1	37.8	37.3	29.3	14.9	56.3	33.3	27.8
	Newcastle-BNG	2.1	50.5	40.3	29.0	15.9	31.8	33.3	28.8
	Gateshead-BNG	34.8	-29.7	21.0	30.8	0.0	325.0	-	21.2
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>-5.8</i>	<i>-3.2</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-2.8</i>	<i>-19.0</i>	<i>-16.2</i>	<i>-5.4</i>	<i>-5.0</i>

Table 7.5 highlights the relatively high proportion of Indian households in the BNG area containing one or more dependent children compared; 47 per cent of Indian households in the BNG area had dependent children in 2001, compared with 28 per cent of all households in the BNG area.

Table 7.5: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
Indian	BNG	46.6	245
	Newcastle-BNG	46.6	211
	Gateshead-BNG	46.6	34
<i>All households in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Table 7.6: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
Indian	BNG	4.0	17.7	2.3	33.5	16.9	4.0	1.7	20.0	526
	BNG Newcastle	4.0	17.7	2.0	32.7	15.9	4.0	2.0	21.9	453
	BNG Gateshead	4.1	17.8	4.1	38.4	23.3	4.1	0.0	8.2	73
<i>All households in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Table 7.6 reveals a number of differences in the structure of Indian households, compared with the total BNG population. First, the proportion of households comprising couples with dependent children is twice as high amongst the Indian population (33.5 per cent compared with 16.1 per cent across the whole BNG area). Secondly, around one in five Indian households fall into the 'other' category, indicating that they are not one person households or one family households. This suggests that many households may be sharing accommodation with family or friends and is likely includes students and older people living in communal establishments. Lastly, there are relatively few pensioner or single parent households within the Indian population of the BNG area.

Indian people in the BNG area are apparently relatively well educated, being three times more likely to hold a higher levels qualification than all people in the BNG area (36 per cent of Indian people hold such a qualification). Only 27 per cent of the Indian population of the BNG area have no qualifications, compared to 48 per cent of the wider BNG population, although the situation varies dramatically between Newcastle (where 26 per cent have no qualifications) and Gateshead (where 40 per cent have no qualifications).

Table 7.7: Qualifications

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
Indian	BNG	27.3	36.6	36.1	1,271
	Newcastle-BNG	25.5	37.4	37.1	1,104
	Gateshead-BNG	39.5	31.1	29.3	167
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		47.9	39.3	12.8	138,873

Note: The base is those people aged 16-74. Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where: Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ; Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ; Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ; Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

The majority of Indian people in the BNG area are economically active (62 per cent, compared to 55 per cent of all BNG residents). One in five (20.5 per cent) Indian residents are self-employed, compared to 3.9 of all residents in the BNG area. One in five (21 per cent) Indian residents of the BNG area were students in 2001. The unemployment rate among the Indian population of the BNG area in 2001 was slightly lower than average at 3.6 per cent, compared to 5.8 per cent across the BNG area. Unemployment levels were far higher amongst the Indian population of Gateshead, however, 8.5 per cent of whom were recorded as unemployed by the Census (although this population is very small allowing a small number of cases to distort the overall picture).

Indian residents of the BNG area are more likely than other residents to be in higher level occupations, almost one in five being in higher managerial and professional occupations, compared to six per cent of BNG population. Indian residents are also far more likely to be small employers or own account workers (27 per cent), while relatively small proportions of the Indian population are employed in routine occupations (5.4 per cent compared to 17.8 per cent of all residents).

Table 7.8: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
Indian	BNG	25.1	6.7	17.2	3.3	3.6	5.8	7.3	15.2	5.9	5.5	4.3	1,267
	Newcastle-BNG	25.2	6.6	15.6	3.0	2.9	6.2	7.2	16.7	6.5	5.8	4.3	1,102
	Gateshead-BNG	24.2	7.3	27.9	5.5	8.5	3.6	7.9	5.5	1.8	3.6	4.2	165
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>31.9</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>138,930</i>

Table 7.9: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long- term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
Indian	BNG	19.7	13.2	7.6	27.1	3.3	10.1	5.4	13.6	11.9	1.7	900
	BNG Newcastle	21.1	12.8	8.5	25.4	3.5	9.9	5.9	13.0	12.2	0.8	768
	BNG Gateshead	11.4	15.9	2.3	37.1	2.3	11.4	3.0	16.7	9.8	6.8	132
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>6.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>93,602</i>

7.3. Residential Settlement Patterns

The Indian population is relatively dispersed compared to other minority ethnic groups in Newcastle and Gateshead. Less than half of Newcastle's Indian population was resident within the BNG area in 2001 and Wingrove was the ward with the largest Indian population in 2001, although less than 10 per cent of the City's Indian population were recorded as living there (see table 7.10). Sizeable populations were also recorded in Dene, Grange and Jesmond (outside the BNG area). Within the Newcastle BNG area, major clusters were recorded by the 2001 Census in the wards of Wingrove, Moorside, Fenham, Kenton and Elswick, each of which contained more than ten per cent of the Newcastle BNG area's Indian population.

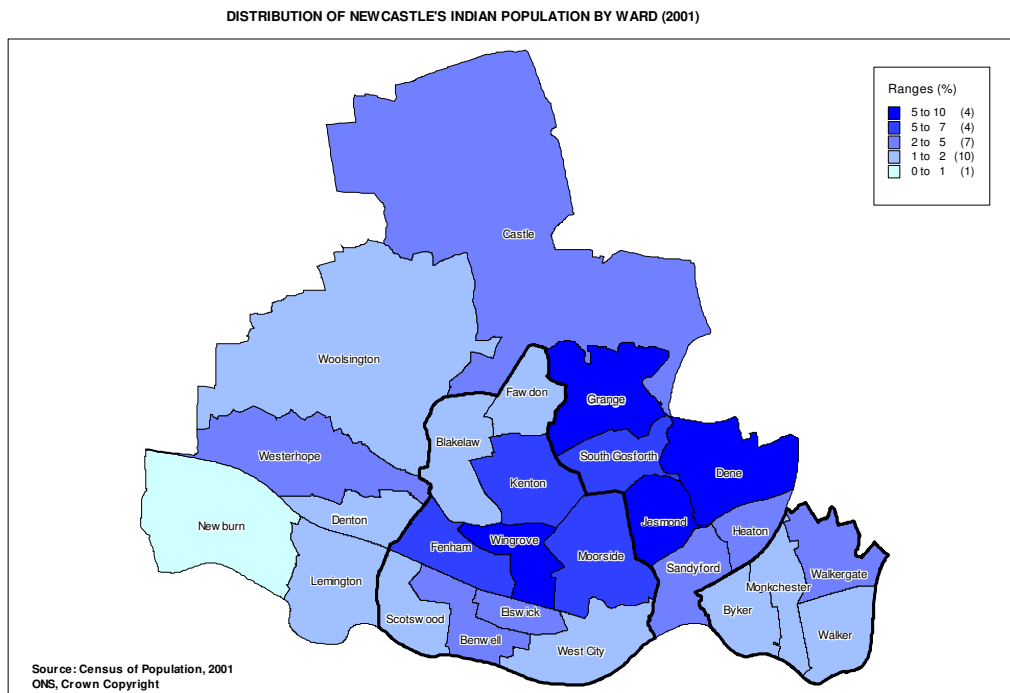


Table 7.10: Residential Distribution of the Newcastle Indian Population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Indian Population
Benwell	2.7
Blakelaw	1.2
Byker	1.9
Elswick	4.9
Fawdon	1.6
Fenham	5.9
Kenton	5.2
Monkchester	1.2
Moorside	6.3
Scotswood	1.8
Walker	1.4
Walkergate	2.4
West City	1.4
Wingrove	9.5
Castle	4.3
Dene	8.9
Denton	1.6
Grange	8.7
Heaton	4.6
Jesmond	8.5
Lemington	1.3
Newburn	0.6
Sandyford	3.5
South Gosforth	6.8
Westerhope	2.6
Woolsington	1.3
Newcastle	100.0
<i>Total Number of People</i>	<i>3,098</i>

Table 7.11: Residential Distribution of Newcastle BNG Indian population, by Ward

Ward	% of Indian population
Benwell	5.8
Blakelaw	2.5
Byker	4.0
Elswick	10.4
Fawdon	3.5
Fenham	12.4
Kenton	11.0
Monkchester	2.5
Moorside	13.2
Scotswood	3.8
Walker	2.9
Walkergate	5.0
West City	2.9
Wingrove	20.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>

In Gateshead, 46 per cent of the Indian population were recorded as residing in the BNG area. Beyond the BNG area, the Indian population was revealed to be relatively evenly spread across Gateshead, with the largest concentration (in Ryton) accounting for only 6.9 per cent of the district's Indian population (see Table 7.12). Within the BNG area, more than one quarter of the Indian population live in Saltwell, but there are also population clusters in Dunston and Bensham.

Table 7.12: Residential Distribution of the Gateshead Indian Population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Indian Population
Bede	4.3
Bensham	6.7
Deckham	1.8
Dunston	8.2
Felling	3.5
Pelaw and Heworth	4.7
Saltwell	12.7
Teams	4.3
Birtley	1.6
Blaydon	3.1
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	5.7
Chowdene	4.1
Crawcrook and Greenside	2.4
High Fell	1.4
Lamesley	2.9
Leam	3.5
Low Fell	3.9
Ryton	6.9
Whickham North	5.3
Whickham South	3.1
Winlaton	3.7
Wrekendyke	6.3
Gateshead	100.0
<i>Total Number of People</i>	<i>490</i>

DISTRIBUTION OF GATESHEAD'S INDIAN POPULATION BY WARD (2001)

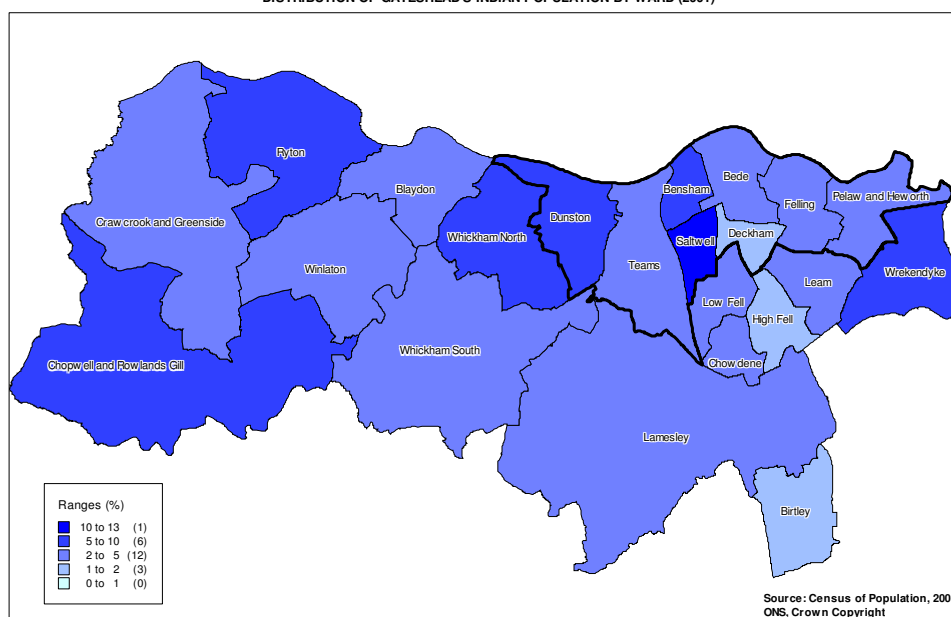


Table 7.13: Residential Distribution of Gateshead BNG Indian population by Ward

Gateshead BNG wards	%
Bede	9.3
Bensham	14.6
Deckham	4.0
Dunston	17.7
Felling	7.5
Pelaw and Heworth	10.2
Saltwell	27.4
Teams	9.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>

7.4. Housing Situations

The tenure profile of the Indian population of the BNG area differs somewhat from the tenure profile of the wider BNG population. Only 7 per cent of Indian residents live in the social rented sector, compared to more than one third of all residents, while one in five live in the private rented sector. The vast majority of Indian residents of the BNG area, however, live in owner occupied accommodation, 70.3 per cent of Indian residents living in the BNG area own their own homes compared to 46.1 per cent of all BNG residents (see table 7.14). Three quarters of all Indian people in the BNG area live in either a house or a bungalow, 22.3 per cent live in a flat, maisonette or apartment, 2.3 per cent in a communal establishment and 0.3 per cent in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure. In the Gateshead BNG area, however, over a third of Indian residents live in a flat, maisonette or apartment (see table 7.15).

Table 7.14: Housing Tenure

		Owens outright	Owens with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
Indian	BNG	23.7	46.6	0.6	4.5	2.5	19.0	0.6	2.5	1,699
	Newcastle-BNG	23.7	46.7	0.7	4.4	2.3	19.3	0.2	2.9	1,470
	Gateshead-BNG	24.0	46.7	0.0	5.2	3.9	17.0	3.1	0.0	229
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,138</i>

Table 7.15: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
Indian	BNG	75.0	22.3	0.3	0.0	2.3	1,687
	Newcastle-BNG	76.5	20.5	0.3	0.0	2.7	1,462
	Gateshead-BNG	65.3	34.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	225
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

7.5. Housing conditions and suitability

Levels of housing deprivation among the Indian population of the BNG area are above the BNG average, but relatively low compared to many other minority ethnic groups. Similarly, levels of overcrowding are above the BNG average but below the levels apparent within other minority ethnic groups in the BNG area (see tables 7.16 and 7.17).

Table 7.16: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Indian	81	15.5	67	15.1	14	17.5
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 7.17: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Indian	69	13.2	57	12.8	12	15.2
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

The seven Indian respondents interviewed as part of the CRESR survey of minority ethnic were asked what changes would most improve their housing situation. All respondents reported a desire to move house, for example, to access larger accommodation or to move to a property with a garden. Only one of the seven respondents cited improved conditions in their current accommodation as a factor that would most improve their current housing situations (see table 7.18).

Table 7.18: What three changes would most improve your current housing situation?

	Yes	No	N/A
Change property size	4	1	2
Property with a garden	3	2	2
Move house	2	3	2
Improved conditions	1	4	2
Adaptations	0	5	2
Neighbourhood issues	0	5	2
Other	0	5	2

Insights into levels of satisfaction with current accommodation were also gleaned from questions focused on respondents desire to move house and reasons for wanting to do so. Four respondents indicated that they would like to move house in the next two years and, once again, the need for a larger property emerged as a key factor influencing their desire to move (see table 7.19 and 7.20). All four respondents indicating a desire to move house expressed concerns, however, about moving to a new neighbourhood and cited this as a factor preventing them from moving.

Table 7.19: Reasons for wishing to move house in the next two years

	Number of respondents
Move into a bigger property	3
Escape poor living conditions	1
Have a bigger garden	1
Move to a different neighbourhood	1
Other: ground floor	1
Change tenure	0
Move to a different street	0
To be nearer family	0
To move away from family	0
To be nearer friends/associates	0
To move away from friends/associates	0
To be nearer services/facilities	0
To move nearer employment	0
Move nearer school	0

Table 7.20: Factors preventing respondents from moving

	Yes	No
<i>Don't want to move</i>	3	4
Concerns about living in a different neighbourhood	4	2
Uncertainty about available opportunities/how to move	3	3
Financial circumstances/affordability concerns	3	3
Family commitments/caring commitments	3	3
Benefits of the local neighbourhood	2	4
Lack of alternative/more suitable housing	2	4
Employment	1	5
Other: school in current area	1	5

7.6. Neighbourhood situations and experiences

No Indian respondent expressed dissatisfaction with their current area of residence. Asked to state three things they most liked about their neighbourhood, and three things they would miss if they moved somewhere else within Gateshead, Indian respondents placed particular importance of local services and facilities (see table 7.20 and 7.21).

Table 7.20: Things you most like about your neighbourhood

	Number of respondents (n=7)
<i>Nothing</i>	0
Local services and facilities (and proximity to)	6
Friendliness/sense of community	2
Transport/links to other areas	2
Property	2
Friends and family nearby	1
Employment	0

Table 7.21: Things you would miss if you moved somewhere else in Newcastle/Gateshead

	Number of respondents (n=7)
<i>Nothing</i>	1
Local facilities and services	6
Transport/links to other area	2
Security/personal safety	2
Other	2
Friends and family nearby	1
Property	1
Friendliness/sense of community	0
Environment	0
Employment	0

Respondents were also asked to specify up to three things they disliked about their neighbourhood. No single issue emerged as a concern for all Indian respondents: two people referred to environmental factors (graffiti and dogs), two mentioned a lack of services and facilities in their neighbourhood; and two people raised concerns about traffic. Only one person mentioned property-related issues, reporting that housing in their neighbourhood (Bensham) was in poor condition (see table 7.22).

Table 7.22: Things you most dislike about your neighbourhood

	Number of respondents (n=7)
<i>Nothing</i>	2
Other	3
Environmental issues	2
Lack of/poor facilities and services	2
Traffic issues	2
Safety concerns	1
Housing and property	1
Racism/racial harassment	0
Quality of life	0

7.6.1. Racial harassment

No respondents mentioned racism or racial harassment as something they disliked about where they live, but two of the seven Indian respondents reported that they had experienced racial harassment in the past 12 months. In both cases, the racial harassment encountered was name calling, and had occurred "several times" or "very often". One of these two respondents had reported the harassment to friends, family and a community group, but not the police, while the other had not reported such incidents to anyone, saying "*What's the use, they don't take any action.*" Over half of Indian respondents felt that racial harassment was a serious problem in the area.

Table 23: Attitude towards racial harassment

	Number of respondents
A serious problem in this area	4
A problem in this area, but not serious	1
Not a problem in the area	1
Don't know	1

Asked about how they manage or seek to minimise harassment, respondents noted a number of strategies:

"Wouldn't go to an area where I don't feel comfortable." [Female, Gateshead]

"challenge any racist remarks which were made"

"use different spaces at different times and try to avoid confrontation, especially on Rectory Road"

"avoid some streets and locations"

"try to avoid going out on her own" (frightened on her own in Teams and Dunston).

7.7. Housing aspirations, choices and actions

Indian respondents were asked about their housing aspirations. Inevitably, information about the aspirations and preferences of the Indian population is limited by the small number of interviews completed, but some worthwhile insights can be drawn from the seven interviews.

Affordability did not emerge as a major concern among the Indian residents interviewed. Two respondents, however, reported that they would not consider owning a property on a mortgage, thereby restricting their opportunities within the owner occupied sector. All respondents were asked whether they would consider various options designed to make buying a house easier and cheaper. None of the Indian respondents would consider shared ownership or equity share, but two respondents did indicate that they would consider a mortgage which reflected their religious beliefs and another two people said they would consider discounted home ownership. The most popular option, selected by five of the seven respondents, was self-build.

Table 7.24: Attitudes to routes into owner occupation

	Yes	No	Don't know
Self-build	5	0	0
Mortgages which reflect specific religious beliefs	2	3	1
Discounted home ownership	2	4	0
Shared ownership	0	5	1
Equity share	0	4	0

7.8. Neighbourhood attitudes and preferences

Indian interview respondents in Gateshead were questioned about their attitudes toward and perceptions of particular parts of the BNG area and their willingness to consider living in these locations. They were also asked about the potential of BNG's strategic commissions within these locations to impact upon their willingness to consider living in these areas. The discussion below details the comments of Indian respondents regarding four locations in the Gateshead BNG area where interventions are focussed:

- Dunston
- Teams
- Bensham and Saltwell
- Felling Bypass Corridor.

Only one of the seven Indian respondents indicated any willingness to consider living anywhere in the BNG area other than Bensham and Saltwell.

7.8.1. Summary of neighbourhood preferences

GATESHEAD					
Would you consider living in the following areas?					
	Yes	No	Perhaps	Don't know	Reasons why not (most popular responses)
Dunston	0	3	0	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge about the area • Perceived as a rough area
Teams	0	4	0	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little knowledge of area • Perceived problem with crime and ASB
Felling Bypass corridor	1	5	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and neighbourhood problems
Bensham and Saltwell	6	0	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Other area of interest to Indians:					
Low Fell (1)					

7.8.2. Attitudes to Different Locations within the Gateshead BNG Area

DUNSTON	
Popularity	The Indian respondents were not very enthusiastic about living in Dunston - three said they would not consider living in Dunston and four did not know.
Deterrent	The main reason many of the respondents (4) cited for not considering living in Dunston was lack of knowledge about the area. One person had heard lots of stories about the area being really rough and the other three did not know the area well enough to feel able to comment on it. None of the respondents gave reasons relating to personal safety fears or the property in the area as explanations as to why they would not consider living in Dunston.
Changing Attitudes	<p>Respondents were asked whether any of the following planned improvements would make them more likely to consider living in Dunston.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater regulation of private landlords and improvements to private rented housing • Work to improve the reputation of the area • More family housing • More social (housing association) housing • Less social (council and housing association) housing • Poorer quality/less popular housing (including Dunston Tower) demolished and replaced by new housing <p>Three of the respondents said that none of the proposed improvements due to take place in Dunston would change their mind about wanting to live in the area. One respondent said that improvements in the reputation of the area, more social housing and the demolition of unpopular housing would make them more likely to consider living in Dunston.</p> <p>Only three respondents offered any suggestions with regard to changes that might make them more likely to consider living in Dunston. One respondent advocated:</p> <p><i>"More houses that will cater for the middle family. More play areas and parks that will cater for the young and families. Cleaner parks and maintain the play areas. Make roads and pavements much cleaner attract more businesses - i.e. local shops to open."</i></p> <p>Another argued accessibility needed to be improved and one respondent did not perceive there to be a particular problem with the property in Dunston, rather the issue being the people.</p>

TEAMS	
Popularity	None of the Indian respondents would consider living in Teams, although three did not know the area and did not comment.
Deterrent	<p>Two respondents said that they would not consider the area because they perceived there were problems with crime and drugs. One respondent listed several reasons for not considering the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • too much traffic there • play areas were not well maintained • no suitable shops • bad reputation of youth disorder and ASB • high rise flats and very peculiar buildings - too much concrete
Changing Attitudes	<p>Respondents were asked whether any of the following three improvements would make them more or less likely to consider living in Teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of selected properties (e.g. Bensham Crescent) • Replacement of old houses with newly built properties (e.g. Dixon Street) • Greater regulation of private landlords and improvements to private rented housing <p>Three respondents said that all three proposed changes would make them more likely to consider living in Teams, but four respondents indicated that none of the changes would change their opinion of the area to such an extent that they would consider living there.</p> <p>Only two respondents offered any changes to Teams which would attract them to the area, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have more police to combat crime and make the area safer • Build more 'better' houses with gardens and more affordable houses that attract families who can buy their properties. More activities for children. Maintain play areas. Better car parking to reduce congestion. <p>The other five respondents did not feel there were any other changes which could take place in Teams that would make them consider living there.</p>

FELLING BYPASS CORRIDOR	
Popularity	Only one Indian respondent was willing to consider living in the Felling Bypass Corridor area. Five respondents said they would not consider the area and one did not know.
Deterrent	The main reason that respondents would not consider living in the Felling Bypass Corridor area was the perception that the area suffered from social / neighbourhood problems. These comments were typically based on perceptions and second hand accounts: <i>"Heard that part is fine, part is very bad."</i> Other reasons identified by respondents included the area being too far (1), too noisy (1) and problems with too much traffic, car parking and congestion on the roads (1).
Changing Attitudes	<p>Respondents were asked whether the following proposed or ongoing improvements would affect their views on the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of unpopular flats with new housing (Brandling estate) • Greater regulation of private landlords • The development of new housing for sale and renting • Replacement of old properties with newly built properties (Sunderland Road) • Improvements to Felling town centre and local services <p>Two respondents said that all of the improvements listed above would make them more likely to consider the area. One respondent indicated that none of the improvements would change their attitude to the area and another didn't know how any of the proposals would change their views on the area.</p> <p>The most popular improvement among Indian respondents was the development of new housing for sale and renting (five people said this would make them more likely to consider living in the area), closely followed by demolition and new build on the Brandling estate and improvements to local facilities and services. Only two respondents said that greater regulation of private landlords would make them more likely to consider living in the Felling Bypass Corridor area.</p> <p>Tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and harassment were the improvements most frequently mentioned by respondents when asked to suggest changes which would make them more likely to consider living in the area. For example, one of the three respondents giving this reason called for more policing, neighbourhood wardens and for safety issues to be addressed. Another respondent highlighted concerns around the management of council housing estates. Two respondents said there was nothing that would make them more likely to consider living in the area.</p>

BENSHAM AND SALTWELL	
Popularity	In contrast to the negative attitudes regarding other parts of the Gateshead BNG area, six of the seven respondents said they <i>would</i> consider living or stay living in the Bensham and Saltwell area. Two respondents indicated a preference for living near Saltwell Park.
Deterrent	None of the respondents indicated that they would not consider living in the area, implying those respondents who were currently living in the area were happy to stay. However, some respondents described specific streets or neighbourhoods <i>within</i> the Bensham and Saltwell area where they would not like to live. Traffic issues, the negative experiences of relatives in particular locations and a run down appearance of certain roads (references were made to boarded up properties) were reasons cited for respondents' reluctance to live in certain locations. In some cases respondents were referring to an area due for clearance, close to the railway line off Saltwell Road.
Changing Attitudes	<p>Respondents were asked whether the following proposed or ongoing improvements would change their willingness to remain or move to the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knocking through Tyneside flats to create 6 bedroom properties • Building of new houses with gardens (off Saltwell Road) • Refurbishment of existing properties (Westbourne Avenue/Saltwell Road) • Creation of more open spaces/green spaces <p>Knocking through Tyneside flats to create six-bedroom properties was the most popular of the proposed improvement (4 people). The other proposed improvements met with a similar response - in each case three people said the improvement would have a positive impact on their willingness to consider the area. The creation of more open spaces or green spaces was the only proposal which faced criticism, as one respondent indicated that this would make them <i>less</i> likely to consider staying in the area.</p> <p>Five respondents proposed changes which they argued would make them <i>more</i> likely to consider living or staying in the Bensham and Saltwell area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved security, more policing and larger properties • a solution to the parking problem • a larger minority ethnic population / community • more Indian food and clothes shops and a temple (currently absent from Gateshead) • better maintenance of open spaces and properties and greater regulation of private landlords by the council.

7.8.3. Opening up new developments

Respondents were asked about factors which would make them more likely to take up the new housing opportunities in Gateshead. In particular, respondents were asked about various approaches to promoting new developments, the type of housing being developed and other improvements to services and facilities within the neighbourhoods. As table 7.25 shows, the top three factors among Indian respondents were the inclusion of culturally sensitive design features, opportunities for friends or family to move together into a new area and the availability of job opportunities.

Table 7.25: Interventions likely to improve uptake of new development opportunities in Gateshead

	Yes	No	Don't know
Culturally sensitive design features	5	1	0
Opportunities for friends/family to move together into a new area	5	1	0
Job opportunities	5	1	0
Guided tours of the area and development	4	1	1
Information on local services, resources, transport connections	4	1	0
Community involvement in planning for the area	4	1	0
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups in the area	4	1	0
Improved safety and security	4	1	0
Improved public transport	4	1	0
Improvements in local schools	4	1	0
Marketing/information sharing	3	3	0
Properties for larger families	3	2	0
Opportunities to own your own home	3	2	0
Help to settle in a new area	3	2	0
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	3	2	0
Opportunities to rent from a HA	2	3	0

Pakistani Residential Situations and Experiences

8.1. Introduction

This profile of the Pakistani Population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area draws on two key data sources: the Census of population (1991 and 2001); and a survey of 107 minority ethnic households in the BNG area, conducted by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University.

A total of 30 Pakistani people (16 female and 14 male), were interviewed as part of the CRESR survey of minority ethnic households, 15 of whom were living in Newcastle and 15 in Gateshead. All described their religion as Muslim. All but 2 respondents were born outside the UK but the majority (69 per cent) were British citizens. Over 86 per cent were married or in long-term relationships and half had dependent children living with them.

According to the Census there were 4,015 Pakistani people living in the BNG area in 2001. The vast majority of these (92 per cent, representing 3,688 people) were resident in Newcastle where they comprised 2.9 per cent of the Newcastle BNG population. In contrast, there were 327 Pakistani people living in the Gateshead BNG area, comprising just 0.5 per cent of the population (see table 8.1).

Table 8.1: Number of Pakistani people in BNG

	Number of people
BNG Area	4,015
Newcastle BNG	3,688
Gateshead BNG	327

Despite comprising just 2.1 per cent of the BNG population, Pakistani people nevertheless form the largest minority ethnic group in the BNG area. In addition, the BNG area has witnessed significant growth in the Pakistani population in recent years: in line with national population trends, the Pakistani population of the BNG area increased by 57 per cent between 1991 and 2001 (nationally the Pakistani population grew by 56.7 per cent during the same period). This contrasts starkly with a 5 per cent *loss* of the overall BNG population during the same time (see table 8.2).

Table 8.2: Population Change between 1991 and 2001

	BNG area			Newcastle-BNG			Gateshead-BNG		
	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change
Pakistani	2,551	4,015	57.4	2,331	3,688	58.2	220	327	48.6
All people	202,314	192,117	-5.0	133,580	127,276	-4.7	68,734	64,841	-5.7

8.2. Profile of the Pakistani Population in the BNG Area

The Pakistani population in the BNG area is relatively young, containing few elderly residents and a high proportion of children: just 7.7 per cent are over the age of 60 and 35.8 per cent are aged 15 or under compared with 25 per cent and 20.4 per cent respectively of the total BNG population (see table 8.3). This raises the likelihood of natural population growth continuing at a relatively rapid rate. In other words, births are likely to significantly outnumber deaths over the coming few decades. The population will also gradually age – i.e. the BNG area will witness an increase in the number of elderly Pakistani people which in turn may have implications for housing and social care provision not currently in high demand from this population (adapted housing, bungalows, sheltered accommodation and so on). Indeed, it is amongst the over 60s where population growth has been the most significant in the past decade. For example, there was a 124 per cent increase in Pakistani people aged 60-64 between 1991 and 2001 compared with a 19 per cent *decrease* in the total BNG population of the same age (see table 8.4).

Table 8.3: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Pakistani	BNG area	35.8	15.9	36.5	4.1	2.7	3.6	1.4	4,019
	Newcastle-BNG	35.9	16.5	36.0	4.1	2.5	3.7	1.4	3,688
	Gateshead-BNG	34.4	9.7	42.0	4.5	5.1	2.4	1.8	331
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 8.4: Change in the age structure of the population between 1991 and 2001

Percentage change in size of population		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Pakistani	BNG area	37.1	39.2	93.4	-12.2	124.5	269.2	600.0	57.5
	Newcastle-BNG	35.7	51.0	91.5	-9.0	89.8	267.6	525.0	58.2
	Gateshead-BNG	56.2	-43.9	113.8	-34.8	-	300.0	-	50.5
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>-5.8</i>	<i>-3.2</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-2.8</i>	<i>-19.0</i>	<i>-16.2</i>	<i>-5.4</i>	<i>-5.0</i>

The household structure of the Pakistani population reflects its relatively young age profile Table 8.5, for example, shows that there are very few pensioner households and the proportion of couples with dependent children is over two and half times higher than the BNG average. Overall, two thirds of Pakistani households (65.5 per cent) contain dependent children compared with just 27.9 per cent of all BNG households (see table 8.6). Pakistani households in the BNG area are recorded as relatively large, containing an average of 4.40 persons per household, compared with 2.28 of all BNG households (Anon, 2005).

The high proportion of 'other' households (i.e. not single family or single people households) is also of interest. The Census data do not provide further information about these households but the CRESR survey data suggests that many will be extended families. In total, 12 of the 30 Pakistani people interviewed by the study team were living with family members other than partners and dependent children. Typically, these were three generational households comprising parents, a son or daughter and their spouse, and grandchildren. Multi-generational living can be born of necessity: high property prices, financial constraints, and limited supply of social housing, for example, can all serve to restrict opportunities for new household formation. However, with most respondents indicating that they were sharing with other household members by choice, it is likely that this reflects active choice and preference amongst many Pakistani households for extended family living. According to the Census, a higher proportion of Pakistani households in the Newcastle BNG area are 'Other' households than in the Gateshead BNG area.

Table 8.5: Household structure of Pakistani Households in the BNG area

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
	BNG	5.7	10.5	1.3	42.9	11.0	7.7	1.9	19.0	976
	Newcastle-BNG	5.3	9.7	1.5	43.8	10.7	7.5	1.8	19.8	880
	Gateshead-BNG	9.4	17.7	0.0	35.4	13.5	9.4	3.1	11.5	96
All people in the BNG area		16.7	21.8	6.5	16.1	18.3	9.1	3.9	7.5	84,405

Table 8.6: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
Pakistani	BNG	65.5	639
	Newcastle-BNG	66.8	588
	Gateshead-BNG	53.1	51
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Levels of educational attainment amongst Pakistani residents do not differ significantly from the wider BNG population. This is not to say that Pakistani households in the BNG area are not suffering high levels of educational disadvantage: educational attainment in the BNG area is generally poor with nearly half of all residents having no qualifications at all (compared with 13 per cent of the adult population nationally¹⁶). However, Pakistani households are no more educationally disadvantaged than all BNG residents and are, in fact, more likely to have higher level qualifications (see table 8.9). Despite this, they are considerably less likely than the total BNG population to be full-time employees (15.5 per cent compared with 31.9 per cent of the BNG population) and it is striking that 27.9 per cent have 'never worked' (27.9 per cent compared with 9.2 per cent of the total BNG population). These figures regarding full-time employment levels and 'non-working' do not, however, reflect significantly higher than average levels of *unemployment*. Rather, the figures reveal a reliance on *self-employment* (14 per cent are self employed compared with just 3 per cent of the BNG population), and the relatively high proportion of the population who look after the home (17.4 per cent of Pakistani people compared with 7.6 per cent of all BNG residents) (see table 8.7).

¹⁶ DFES Labour Force Survey Autumn 2005

Table 8.7: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
Pakistani	BNG	15.5	7.6	14.0	1.9	6.6	4.8	5.1	11.7	17.4	5.4	9.9	2,537
	Newcastle-BNG	15.5	7.9	13.9	1.8	6.4	4.7	4.7	11.8	17.6	5.3	10.2	2,316
	Gateshead-BNG	15.8	5.0	14.5	2.7	8.6	5.9	8.6	10.9	15.4	6.8	5.9	221
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>31.9</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>138,930</i>

Table 8.8: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long- term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
Pakistani	BNG	6.0	9.2	5.6	23.5	3.3	14.4	7.0	31.0	27.9	3.2	1,865
	Newcastle-BNG	5.9	9.1	5.4	23.7	3.5	14.2	7.5	30.7	27.8	2.9	1,687
	Gateshead-BNG	6.2	9.6	7.3	22.5	1.7	16.9	1.7	34.3	28.7	5.6	178
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>6.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>93,602</i>

Table 8.9: Qualifications

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
Pakistani	BNG	46.6	37.3	16.1	2,518
	Newcastle-BNG	46.7	36.9	16.5	2,309
	Gateshead-BNG	45.5	42.1	12.4	209
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		47.9	39.3	12.8	138,873

The base is those people aged 16-74. Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where: Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ; Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ; Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ; Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

8.3. Residential Situations and Experiences

8.3.1. Settlement patterns

The Pakistani populations of both Newcastle and Gateshead are heavily concentrated in the BNG area. In 2001 over three quarters of the Pakistani population of Newcastle (76.3 per cent) and over two thirds of the Pakistani population of Gateshead (67.1 per cent) lived in those wards which fall within the BNG area in each city (see tables 8.10 and 8.11).

There is also evidence of residential clustering *within* the BNG area. In the Newcastle BNG area there is a distinct Pakistani cluster in the West of the area, comprising the adjacent wards of Wingrove, (where 37.5 per cent of the Pakistani population of the BNG area live), Elswick (16.8 per cent) and Fenham (15.8 per cent). In total, 70.1 per cent of the Pakistani population of the Newcastle BNG area lived within this cluster in 2001. A further 6.9 per cent was resident in the Moorside ward. Similarly, over half the Pakistani population of the Gateshead BNG area (50.8 per cent) was concentrated in Saltwell ward in 2001. Other key areas of settlement were Bede (11.6 per cent) and Deckham (10.4 per cent). A further 5.2 per cent were living in Bensham ward. Again, then, over 70 per cent of the Pakistani population in the Gateshead BNG area were clustered in just 3 wards.

Examining population clustering within the BNG area reveals, then, that although the majority of Pakistani households in Newcastle and Gateshead do live in the BNG area, it does not follow that *all* areas within the BNG area contain a sizeable Pakistani population. In fact, some BNG wards contain a *smaller* proportion of Newcastle and Gateshead's Pakistani population than those outside the BNG area. Table 8.11, for example shows that just 0.9 per cent and 1.1 per cent of Newcastle's Pakistani population live in the wards of Monkchester and Blakelaw (both falling within the BNG area) while Dene and Heaton (wards outside the BNG area) contain 5.5 per cent and 5.1 per cent of the population respectively. This does not apply to the same extent to Gateshead, although only 2.5 per cent of the Town's Pakistani population live in Felling (within the BNG area), while 4.7 per cent live outside the BNG area in Leam (table 8.11).

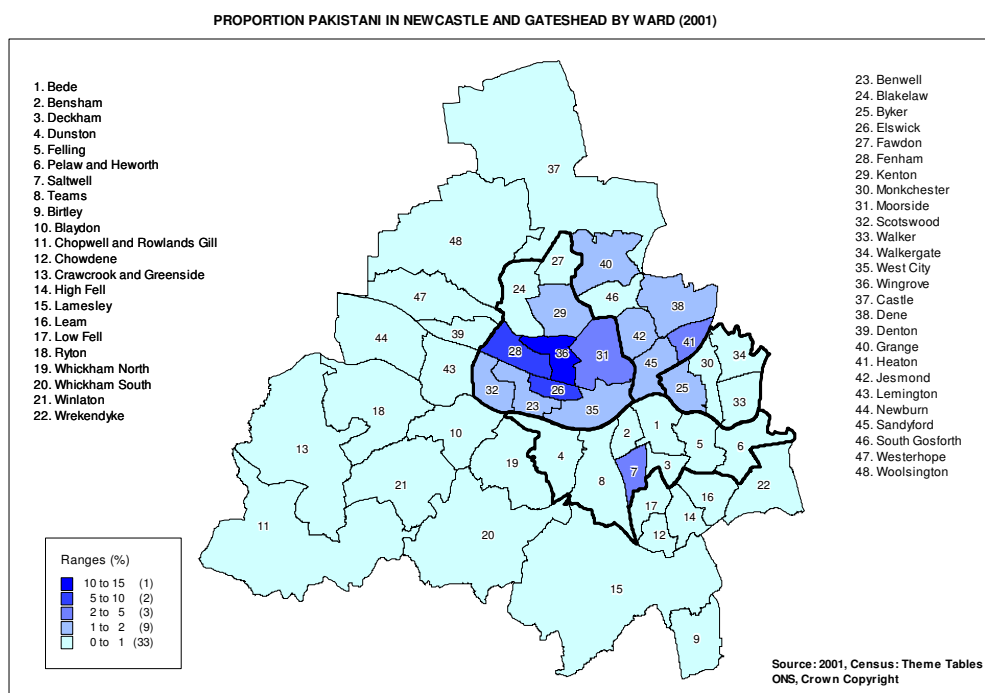


Table 8.10: Pakistani settlement patterns in Newcastle, by Local Authority ward (the BNG wards are shaded)

% of Newcastle's Pakistani population in each ward		% of Newcastle's Pakistani population in each ward	
Benwell	2.1	Castle	0.7
Blakelaw	1.1	Dene	5.5
Byker	1.8	Denton	0.5
Elswick	12.8	Grange	2.7
Fawdon	1.3	Heaton	5.1
Fenham	12.1	Jesmond	2.7
Kenton	3.6	Lemington	0.5
Monkchester	0.9	Newburn	0.3
Moorside	5.2	Sandyford	2.7
Scotswood	2.0	South Gosforth	1.9
Walker	1.3	Westerhope	0.4
Walkergate	1.3	Woolsington	0.9
West City	2.2		
Wingrove	28.6	Newcastle	100.0
		Newcastle (N)	4,842

Table 8.11: Pakistani settlement patterns in Gateshead, by Local Authority ward (the BNG wards are shaded)

% of Gateshead's Pakistani population in each ward		% of Gateshead's Pakistani population in each ward	
Bede	7.8	Birtley	3.7
Bensham	3.5	Blaydon	1.6
Deckham	7.0	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	2.3
Dunston	4.1	Chowdene	1.4
Felling	2.5	Crawcrook and Greenside	0.0
Pelaw and Heworth	3.5	High Fell	4.1
Saltwell	34.0	Lamesley	0.6
Teams	4.7	Leam	4.7
		Low Fell	3.7
		Ryton	2.3
		Whickham North	2.7
		Whickham South	0.6
		Winlaton	1.4
		Wrekendyke	3.9
		Gateshead	100.0
		Gateshead (N)	491

Table 8.12: Distribution of Newcastle BNG area's Pakistani population across each BNG ward in Newcastle

Newcastle BNG wards	%
Benwell	2.8
Blakelaw	1.4
Byker	2.3
Elswick	16.8
Fawdon	1.7
Fenham	15.8
Kenton	4.7
Monkchester	1.1
Moorside	6.9
Scotswood	2.7
Walker	1.7
Walkergate	1.7
West City	2.8
Wingrove	37.5
Total Newcastle BNG	100.0

Table 8.13: Distribution of Gateshead BNG area's Pakistani population across each BNG ward in Gateshead

Gateshead BNG wards	%
Bede	11.6
Bensham	5.2
Deckham	10.4
Dunston	6.1
Felling	3.7
Pelaw and Heworth	5.2
Saltwell	50.8
Teams	7.0
Total Gateshead BNG	100.0

8.2.2. Housing Situations

According to the Census, in 2001 Pakistani households in the BNG area were concentrated in the private sector, where they were over-represented in both owner occupation and private renting. In contrast they were significantly under-represented in council housing (6.7 per cent of Pakistani households rent from the council compared with one third of the total BNG population) and were slightly less likely to rent from housing associations, particularly in Gateshead (see table 8.14). The extent to which these tenure patterns reflect preferences and choices and the extent to which they reflect institutional barriers and other constraints is discussed further in the following section.

Table 8.15 shows that in 2001 the vast majority of Pakistani households were living in houses or bungalows and that they were more likely to do so than the total BNG population. Bearing in mind the predominance of terraced housing in the neighbourhoods in which the Pakistani population are concentrated it is very likely that most of these households will be living in houses rather than bungalows. This overall picture does, however, mask some variations between Newcastle and Gateshead. In the Gateshead BNG area, for example, Pakistani households are slightly *less* likely to live in houses than the total BNG population while the converse is true in Newcastle. This is likely to partly reflect the greater availability of houses in some of the locations in Newcastle in which the Pakistani population are clustered (such as Wingrove and Fenham) compared with locations in Gateshead (such as Saltwell). They are also significantly more likely to live in flats or maisonettes in Gateshead than in Newcastle. The reasons for this are unclear but it is likely that many of those recorded as living in flats and maisonettes are resident in Tyneside flats. Greater availability of this property type in particular locations would, therefore, provide some explanation.

Table 8.14: Housing Tenure of Pakistani Households in the BNG area

		Owens outright	Owens with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
	BNG	22.0	46.3	0.2	6.7	4.2	18.3	1.9	0.4	4,018
	Newcastle-BNG	22.0	45.8	0.2	6.7	4.5	18.6	2.0	0.4	3,692
	Gateshead-BNG	22.1	52.5	0.0	7.7	1.2	15.0	1.5	0.0	326
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		13.6	32.5	0.4	33.1	6.0	10.7	1.2	2.6	192,138

Table 8.15: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Hhold in shared accomm	Communal Establishment	
	BNG	83.8	15.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	4,014
	Newcastle-BNG	84.8	14.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	3,690
	Gateshead-BNG	72.5	27.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	324
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

8.2.3. Housing Conditions and Suitability

Evidence from the Census and from the CRESR survey suggests that many Pakistani households in the BNG area are living in poor housing conditions and in properties which are unsuitable or do not meet their needs. Drawing on Census data, for example, tables 8.16 and 8.17 show that nearly one quarter of the Pakistani population in the BNG area was defined as being in 'housing deprivation'¹⁷ in 2001, and that overcrowding was a particular problem with nearly one in five households living in overcrowded conditions. Larger than average households, extend family household structures, financial constraints, barriers to accessing social housing, limited supply of larger properties and the predominance of terraced housing in the neighbourhoods in which the Pakistani population is clustered may all be contributory factors here.

Table 8.16: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pakistani	231	23.5	210	23.8	21	21.2
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 8.17: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pakistani	189	19.4	171	19.5	18	18.4
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

The CRESR survey allows us to explore some of these issues in more detail. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their current housing situation, such as how satisfied they were with their current property, how their situation could be improved, and about those factors influencing their desire to move house. Their responses to these questions revealed a consistent picture of unmet housing need focused squarely on inadequate property sizes and poor housing conditions. For example:

- More than one third of respondents (10 out of 29) expressed dissatisfaction with the state of repair of their home, all but one of whom was living in the private sector (owner occupiers and renters). Time and again respondents made comments such as “I like the house, I want to stay here but it is in a very poor state of repair”, “the property is

¹⁷ Households in housing deprivation are those living in accommodation which is either overcrowded, or is a shared dwelling, or has no central heating, or where they do not have sole use of a bath/shower and toilet.

infested", and "*there's quite a lot of work needed, it's very cold in winter*". They reported damp and condensation, ineffective heating systems and rooms in such poor condition that they were uninhabitable and could not be used.

- when asked to specify up to three things that would most improve their current housing situation, more respondents cited 'improved housing conditions' than any other issue (45 per cent of survey respondents said this would most improve their current housing situation) followed by a change in the size of their property (one third).
- exploring the (often multiple) reasons why respondents wanted to move, 'property related' reasons were cited by more respondents than any other. For example, 9 of the 14 people wanting to move house said this was to escape poor conditions, half wanted to move to a bigger property, and half wanted to move to a property with a garden¹⁸.

Levels of housing dissatisfaction were particularly high in Gateshead where half of those surveyed were dissatisfied with the state of repair of their home, and most of these reported being *very* dissatisfied. In contrast, a much lower 20 per cent of Newcastle respondents (just 3 out of 15 individuals) reported dissatisfaction with the condition of their home and none reported being *very* dissatisfied. This may be explained with reference to the locations in which Pakistani households in Newcastle and Gateshead are concentrated. Wingrove and Fenham (in Newcastle) were reported by local stakeholders to be better performing markets and to contain a higher proportion of houses (rather than flatted accommodation) than Saltwell (in Gateshead). These different neighbourhood conditions are likely to influence Pakistani households' residential experiences in the two Cities and be reflected in their levels of housing and neighbourhood satisfaction.

At first glance, the low levels of housing satisfaction amongst Gateshead respondents would suggest that addressing property conditions in the Gateshead BNG area may be more pressing than it is in the Newcastle BNG area if the needs of Pakistani households are to be met. However, when it came to thinking more specifically about their requirements, about the ways in which their current housing situations could be improved, and to exploring their reasons for wanting to move, respondents in Newcastle were more likely than those in Gateshead to raise issues about the condition of their homes. For example, when asked to specify up to three things which would most improve their current housing situations, 60 per cent of Newcastle respondents (6 out of 10) cited 'improved housing conditions', compared with 35 per cent (5 out of 14) of Gateshead respondents. Similarly, 4 of the 5 Newcastle respondents who expressed a desire to move house said they wanted to move specifically in order to escape poor conditions (compared with 5 out of 9 Gateshead respondents).

Interestingly, comparing the size of survey respondents' households with the size of their homes did not, on the face of it, suggest levels of overcrowding as high as those indicated in the Census. However, exploring respondents' household circumstances further revealed a number of cases where the *condition* of their home was, in effect, reducing the space available to them, forcing them into overcrowded conditions within houses which in theory were an adequate size. Several families, for example, were using only one of the three or four bedrooms in their house because of damp, with the parents and children all sleeping in one bedroom, and one family of four were all sleeping together in the living room, this being the only habitable room in the house. This raises the possibility that actual levels of overcrowding (i.e. based upon the number of *habitable* bedrooms) may be far higher than indicated by the Census.

Inadequate property sizes leading to overcrowding, and poor conditions were not the only concerns raised by survey respondents in relation to their homes. It is of some concern that that one quarter (6 out of 24 people who answered this question) reported that adaptations to their property were required. This is not surprising if we consider that 18 of the 30 Pakistani respondents (60 per cent) reported that at least one member of their household had a long-term health problem, illness or disability which limited their daily activities. This is a very significant proportion, not least given the relatively young age profile of the population discussed above. By no means all of these will require adapted accommodation (for example downstairs bathrooms, toilets, hand rails, ramps and so on) or housing of a particular type

¹⁸ Respondents were able to cite more than one reason for wanting to move

(such as bungalow accommodation) but it certainly raises the possibility of higher than average levels of need for specialist or adapted properties.

This point is illustrated by the experiences of one particular family, comprising a young couple, their two children and the husband's elderly parents. They were using one of the reception rooms as a bedroom, not because the property lacked sufficient bedrooms to accommodate the family but because the elderly father's mobility difficulties prevented him from climbing stairs and he needed to sleep on the same floor as the bathroom. The family could not afford to install a second toilet and shower and had tried and failed on a number of occasions to obtain grants for adaptations. This situation raised additional problems for the family: as Muslims, they require two reception rooms in order that women and men can occupy separate living spaces. With one of the reception rooms occupied as a bedroom they struggled to comply with their religious beliefs.

8.4. Neighbourhood Situations and Experiences

Most of the Pakistani respondents surveyed by the study team in Gateshead were living in Bensham (13 people), with a further 2 resident in Felling. In Newcastle, people living in Fenham (8 people), Benwell (5 people), and Elswick (2 people) were interviewed. Respondents were asked to reflect on their experiences of life in their neighbourhood and on those aspects of the area which they felt more and less positively about. To this end they were asked a series of open-ended questions (the responses to which were coded subsequently) about the things they most liked and disliked about living in the area, and about those aspects of the neighbourhood they would miss if they moved elsewhere. The results provide a good indication of those aspects of local neighbourhoods likely to inform and influence Pakistani households' residential choices and levels of satisfaction.

Although respondents did raise concerns about some aspects of their neighbourhood, overall satisfaction rates were very high with 24 respondents (nearly 90 per cent) reporting being very or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live. This was particularly true in Newcastle where 13 of the 14 respondents were satisfied with their neighbourhood and no respondent reported dissatisfaction (1 occupied a neutral position). In Gateshead, satisfaction levels were also relatively high with 11 out of 15 respondents reporting satisfaction with the neighbourhood and a further 2 said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

Chiming with respondents' comments about the inadequacies of their accommodation – in terms of size and condition, for example – it was not the quality and desirability of the housing in the area which underpinned respondents' satisfaction with the neighbourhoods in which they lived. Rather, and overwhelmingly, respondents pointed to the quality of, and proximity to local services and facilities, with 25 out of 29 respondents citing this as one of three things they most liked about their neighbourhood (see table 8.18) and 18 out of 26 respondents (70 per cent) stating that this was what they miss most if they moved.

The presence of cultural and religious facilities such as mosques and Muslim community centres in the neighbourhoods in which the Pakistani population are clustered is likely to be very relevant here and comments such as "the mosque is close, that's important because the children need to go there for studies and the men go to pray", and "there's Halal shopping near" were relatively commonplace. However, when respondents talked about the importance of having good quality local facilities nearby they were not referring only, or even primarily to the availability of cultural and religious facilities within the neighbourhood. Respondents also stressed the importance of living close to generic services such as doctors, health centres, schools, leisure centres and shops. For example:

"There's leisure nearby, the library etc. I use the library a lot"

"The school, the shops and the doctor are nearby"

"The leisure centre, the school and the shops are all within walking distance"

It is worth noting that a number of Pakistani respondents living in Bensham in Gateshead were very positive about the local generic services but bemoaned the *lack* of cultural and

religious facilities in the area. They explained that there were no shops selling Asian food or clothes in Bensham and that the mosque was no longer adequate for the size of the Muslim community which had recently expanded as a result of new immigration to the City. Thus one respondent commented that there is a *“lack of community facilities. The mosque is not big enough for everyone coming and we need other facilities too”*.

Living close to friends and family members, and the presence of wider social and community networks also emerged as important influences on respondents' views about, and satisfaction with their neighbourhood. The sense of community and the feeling of security that comes from living alongside people belonging to the same ethnic or religious group were clearly important. However, there are also pragmatic benefits associated with familial and social networks. Women with children, for example, talked about the assistance they received with childcare, and respondents caring for sick and disabled partners, parents or children emphasised the crucial role played by friends and family members in assisting and supporting them. Pakistani respondents recently arrived in the UK, many of whom had limited English language skills knew few people in Gateshead, were particularly keen to remain within the 'Pakistani residential cluster' in Bensham, fearing the isolation they would feel were they to move away from the few friends and relatives they had in the UK.

Table 8.18: What do you most like about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
Quality of and proximity to local services and facilities	25	83.3
Friends and family nearby	9	30.0
Friendliness / sense of community	6	20.0
Good transport / transport links to other areas	5	16.7
Housing (e.g. type, size, quality, condition)	2	6.7
Employment opportunities	2	6.7
Security / personal safety	2	6.7
Nothing	1	3.3

n=29

Table 8.19: What do you most dislike about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
Nothing	8	26.7
Security / personal safety	8	26.7
Environmental issues (noise, litter, run down)	4	13.3
General quality of life concerns	4	13.3
Lack of / poor local services and facilities	2	6.7
Traffic issues	2	6.7
Racism/racial harassment	2	6.7
Housing (e.g. type, size, quality, condition)	2	6.7

n=29

That respondents were very satisfied with their neighbourhood and could point to a number of very positive attributes of their local area is encouraging, particularly in neighbourhoods which, as part of a HMR pathfinder area are, by definition, experiencing high levels of deprivation. However, there were also a series of problematic aspects of life in the neighbourhood highlighted by respondents, many of which centred on overlapping issues of personal safety, racial harassment, and anti-social behaviour.

Security and personal safety was mentioned by more respondents than any other issue when asked what they most disliked about the neighbourhood in which they lived (see table 8.19). In particular, respondents were concerned about crime, anti-social behaviour and drug-related activities in their area. They pointed, for example, to *“drinking and drugs and disorder on the streets”*, to *“anti-social behaviour in certain areas from young people passing through”*, to their perception of the area as *“a renowned place for drug dealers to live, and others then follow”* and to *“young people harassing and abusing in the street, making racial comments”*.

To pick up on the last quote above, it was of interest that despite very high levels of residential satisfaction, and only 2 respondents citing racial harassment as something they disliked about their neighbourhood, when questioned further about this issue 12 out of 29 respondents (41 per cent) reported having suffered racial harassment in the past 12 months

and 18 out of 27 (67 per cent) said they thought racial harassment was a problem in their area, 6 of whom thought it was a serious problem. Most commonly, the harassment respondents had experienced was verbal racist abuse although physical attacks and attacks to their property were also reported. Based on his own experience and the experiences of friends and family, one respondent (in Gateshead) was firmly of the view that racial harassment – particularly verbal abuse – had noticeably increased since 9/11. It appears that for many Pakistani people racial harassment and abuse is a daily or weekly occurrence with respondents explaining that they suffered such abuse “every week, several times”, or “every week, numerous times, all the time”.

It is of interest that the housing in the area did not feature highly in respondents' likes or dislikes about their neighbourhood, suggesting, perhaps, that property related issues are not key drivers of residential satisfaction, despite apparently high levels of housing need.

Although slight variations were apparent between Gateshead and Newcastle with regard to neighbourhood experiences and satisfaction they were not significant. The exception was that Gateshead respondents were far more likely to say they would miss the local facilities in their neighbourhood if they moved than Newcastle residents. This may reflect the greater availability of religious and cultural facilities in Newcastle. In Gateshead, a move away from the Pakistani cluster in Bensham would leave Pakistani residents isolated from the few community facilities which are available.

8.5. Housing Aspirations, Choices and Actions

Given the relatively high proportion of survey respondents who reported inadequacies with their current accommodation (see section 2), and the high levels of housing deprivation and overcrowding indicated by the Census, it is perhaps unsurprising that nearly half of Pakistani respondents (13 out of 28) reported wanting to move house in the next 2 years. The desire to move appeared to be stronger in Gateshead than in Newcastle: over 60 per cent of Gateshead respondents wanted to move in the next two years compared with one third of Newcastle respondents, a reflection, perhaps, of the higher levels of housing satisfaction reported by respondents living in Newcastle than in Gateshead.

Despite a desire to move *house*, most Pakistani respondents were committed to the *neighbourhoods* in which they lived. For example, 20 out of 28 respondents stated that if they were to move they would like to stay in their current area of residence. In addition, when asked to reflect on their *ideal* housing situation (property size, tenure, location and so on) the location in which respondents said they would ideally like to live closely matched the neighbourhoods in which they already lived. Thus, amongst those who specified the neighbourhoods in which their 'ideal house' would be located, Bensham and Fenham were the most commonly cited areas (and the areas where most respondents were currently living), and Benwell, Elswick and Felling were also all mentioned. In Newcastle, the vast majority of respondents (9 out of 12) cited Fenham, and no respondent cited an area outside BNG area as representing their 'ideal' location. In Gateshead on the other hand, Low Fell and Whickham, both outside the BNG area and with a good supply of houses with gardens, emerged as relatively popular amongst the Pakistani sample. Low Fell in particular emerged as an area in which a number of Pakistani respondents currently resident in Bensham aspired to live. Located on the southern border of the neighbourhood which respondents described as Bensham (but which is actually in the ward of Saltwell) Low Fell was perceived by some respondents as being “a lovely area”, close enough to Bensham for the local facilities and community networks to remain accessible to them but distant enough to avoid the more problematic aspects of the neighbourhood discussed in section 3 above.

There were discernable differences between Newcastle and Gateshead in relation to respondents' commitment to their neighbourhood. For example, while it is perhaps encouraging that *all* Newcastle respondents said they would like to remain within their current area of residence (Benwell, Fenham or Elswick) if they moved, a somewhat different picture emerged in Gateshead where less than half of respondents (6 out of 14) expressed this view. Of the 12 respondents living in Bensham only 5 reported a desire to remain within the neighbourhood (the same 5 people who cited Bensham as their 'ideal location') and 4 wanted to move to 'a neighbouring area'. Of the 2 respondents living in Felling one said they would

stay in the area if they moved house and the other expressed a desire to move to a neighbouring area.

Although respondents talked about where they would ideally like to live and where they would move to *if* they moved, these discussions were largely hypothetical, providing an indication of their aspirations and preferred residential locations rather than indicating an actual desire to move or an intention to do so. As mentioned above, just over half of respondents did *not* want to move from their current property and many of those who did pointed to a series of factors preventing them from doing so. Financial considerations in particular emerged as a significant constraint on Pakistani respondents' ability to escape the poor conditions and unsuitable housing in which many were living: the vast majority (14 out of 17) explained that their financial circumstances were preventing them from moving. Uncertainty about available opportunities and concerns about living in a different neighbourhood also emerged as constraints on Pakistani households' mobility (see table 8.20). Interestingly, one third (5 people) pointed to a lack of suitable housing in the area where they wanted to live – areas which, as we have seen above, largely fall within the BNG area.

Exploring differences between Newcastle and Gateshead suggests that financial considerations and a lack of suitable alternative accommodation are preventing Pakistani people in Gateshead from fulfilling their desire to move to a greater extent than in Newcastle: all of the people interviewed in Gateshead who wanted to move pointed to their financial circumstances as being a key constraint on their ability to do so while this was true of only 2 of the 5 Newcastle respondents expressing a desire to move. This may reflect different economic situations but if we consider that many Pakistani respondents in Gateshead apparently aspired to live in Low Fell – an area where property is reportedly particularly expensive - it is perhaps not surprising that financial constraints were hindering their ability to move. Similarly, only 1 person in Newcastle commented on the lack of suitable alternative accommodation in this context compared with 4 out of 10 Gateshead respondents.

Table 8.20: Factors preventing respondents from moving house

	Number	%
Financial circumstances / affordability concerns	14	82.4
Uncertainty about available opportunities / how to move	7	46.7
Concerns about living in a different neighbourhood	5	33.3
A lack of alternative or more suitable housing in the area	5	33.3
Family commitments or caring responsibilities	2	14.3
Employment	2	13.3

We saw in section 2.2 that, according to the Census, the majority of Pakistani households (68.3 per cent) were owner occupiers in 2001. Drawing on the CRESR survey data this would certainly appear to reflect Pakistani households' tenure preferences: all but 1 respondent reported that, ideally, they would like to own their own home. Thinking a little less idealistically, nearly three quarters said they would consider owning their own home but most (17 out of 25) said that affordability concerns would prevent them from doing so without the help of a mortgage and 9 out of 25 said that owner occupation would be out of their financial reach even with the help of a mortgage.

Despite a clear preference for owner occupation and low levels of social renting indicated by the Census some respondents did express an interest in renting from The Gateshead Housing Company or Your Homes Newcastle. When asked whether they would consider renting from these social housing landlords 3 out of 10 Gateshead respondents and 3 out of 11 Newcastle respondents replied in the affirmative. Similarly, 6 out of 21 respondents said they would consider renting from a housing association. Interestingly, all the respondents who said they would consider moving into social housing were currently living in the private sector. Most of these were resident in private rented accommodation although 1 of those who said they would consider renting from the local authority and 2 of those who said they would consider renting from a housing association were owner occupiers. None of these respondents, however, said they would consider renting from a private landlord indicating that social housing, for these households, is preferable to the private rented sector.

8.6. Neighbourhood Attitudes and Preferences

Pakistani survey respondents were questioned about their attitudes toward and perceptions of particular locations within the BNG area, and about whether they would consider living in these locations. They were also asked about the potential of BNG's strategic commissions within these locations to impact upon their willingness to consider living in these areas. Pakistani respondents were asked about their attitudes towards five specific locations in the Newcastle BNG area where interventions are focussed:

- Benwell and Scotswood
- Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill
- Discovery Quarter
- Walker Riverside
- Byker and Ouseburn

And four locations in the Gateshead BNG area:

- Dunston
- Teams
- Bensham and Saltwell
- Felling Bypass Corridor

Respondents views about each of these areas as places they would consider living, the factors deterring them from doing so, and the extent to which proposed or ongoing BNG interventions in these neighbourhoods are likely to impact positively on their opinions and likelihood of moving into each area are detailed in the series of tables at the end of this section. Table 8.21 below summarises some of this information, showing those neighbourhoods which Pakistani respondents were most and least likely to consider living, and their primary concerns relating to these area.

On the whole respondents expressed great reluctance to move to the various areas in which interventions were planned or ongoing, saying that they would not consider living in these areas under any circumstances. The exceptions were those areas where the Pakistani population is clustered and where many respondents were currently living (Bensham and Saltwell, and Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill). The Discovery Quarter in Newcastle was also relatively popular but not significantly so. This raises the issue that there are likely to be greater opportunities of relevance to Pakistani households in some areas than in others.

A degree of reluctance to move away from one's current area of residence is to be expected. People form attachments to the places where they live, a sense of comfort and security can stem from familiarity with one's place of residence, and people form social and community networks. However, respondents' explanations for their reluctance to move elsewhere did not focus solely on the positive attributes of their current area of residence and a reluctance to leave these behind. Many were able to point to a series of characteristics of other neighbourhoods which they deemed problematic and which deterred them from considering these as places to live.

Table 8.21 shows that, in Newcastle, the areas of Byker and Walker Riverside were the least popular amongst respondents, nearly all of whom said they would not consider living in these neighbourhoods under any circumstances. In Gateshead this was true of Dunston, with only one respondent expressing an interest in living in the area and stating clearly that he would only live in the part of Dunston which borders Whickham (and falls outside the BNG area).

It is perhaps no coincidence that the least popular neighbourhoods are also those located some distance from the key areas of Pakistani settlement in Newcastle and Gateshead. Indeed it was precisely this issue which concerned respondents most and was apparently deterring them from considering Byker or Walker as places to live. Whether the available

housing in these areas, or any proposed new developments, present opportunities for respondents to improve their housing situations was of little consequence to them, if to do so would leave them isolated from important facilities and social and community networks. Thus, where Pakistani households' reluctance to live in particular locations centres on the distance and isolation from key facilities and community networks, property-related interventions such as those seeking to improve housing conditions, replace unpopular housing, diversify the stock, or provide more family housing are, understandably, unlikely to attract Pakistani people to the area.

Table 8.21. Respondents' perceptions of different BNG areas

Would you consider living in....?	Yes	No	Not sure	Why not? (most popular responses)
Gateshead				
Dunston	1	13	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of / too far from facilities • Social / neighbourhood problems • Personal safety concerns
Teams	3	11	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Safety fears • Social / neighbourhood problems
Felling Bypass Corridor	4	10	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social / neighbourhood problems • Property related reasons • Personal safety concerns
Bensham and Saltwell	13	2	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only relevant to 2 respondents – no reason cited by more than 1 of these
Newcastle				
Byker and Ouseburn	1	12	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of / too far from facilities & community
Walker Riverside	2	12	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of / too far from facilities & community • Social / neighbourhood problems
Loadman Street and Westmoreland Rd	4	8	3	
Benwell and Scotswood	5	9	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social / Neighbourhood problems
The Discovery Quarter	7	6	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues raised by respondents to explain their reluctance to live in this area
Elswick / Arthurs Hill	8	7	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social / Neighbourhood problems

It was notable that although discussion about respondents' *current* housing situations revealed a focus on property related issues (overcrowding, inadequate property size, poor conditions and so on – see section 2), their reluctance to move to the areas listed above tended to stem from the social and neighbourhood related problems they perceived to be prevalent in certain areas (crime, anti-social behaviour and “*bad people*”). Many stressed, therefore, that while housing-related interventions (building new housing, providing more family housing) were certainly positive, they were very unlikely to take up these opportunities unless radical changes to the neighbourhoods were made. Time and again, when asked whether particular housing initiatives would make them more likely to move to a particular location, respondents made comments such as “*it wouldn't make any difference unless the people changed too*” and “*no because there would still be anti-social behaviour.*” Table 8.20 shows that ‘social or neighbourhood problems’ was the first or second most commonly provided reason why respondents would not consider living in Dunston, Teams, Felling

Bypass Corridor, Benwell and Scotswood, and Elswick, Benwell North and Arthurs Hill. In these areas, respondents stressed the importance of developing interventions to improve the reputation of the area and address anti-social behaviour before they would consider living there.

Despite the rather bleak picture presented thus far in this section, some respondents did respond positively to a number of the activities which BNG is planning or already undertaking, reporting that these would make them more likely to consider moving to the neighbourhoods in which these interventions are being actioned. For example 8 out of 15 respondents said their willingness to move to Benwell and Scotswood would increase if more family housing was built in the area and 5 out of 15 expressed this view in relation to Dunston. In Newcastle 8 out of 15 respondents also responded positively to less popular properties in Benwell and Scotswood being demolished and replaced with new houses and the same was true of 4 out of 15 Gateshead respondents in relation to Dunston. Refurbishment of older properties in Teams was of interest to 4 people and 6 respondents reacted very positively to the range of housing-related activities proposed and ongoing in the Felling Bypass Corridor, particularly around Sunderland Road. The tables presented at the end of this section provide full details of those activities which respondents reported would increase the likelihood of them moving to each area.

Table 8.22: Proportion of respondents who said the following activities would make them more likely to take up opportunities in the locations where BNG interventions are focused

	Newcastle areas		Gateshead areas	
	Number	%	Number	%
Opportunities for friends/family to move together	10	71.4	11	84.6
Marketing or information sharing	8	57.1	9	69.2
Information about local services, resources and transport	8	57.1	9	75.0
The development of properties for larger families	8	57.1	9	69.2
Help to settle in a new areas	8	57.1	10	76.9
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups	8	57.1	11	84.6
Improved safety and security	8	57.1	12	92.3
Improved public transport	8	57.1	10	76.9
Job opportunities	8	57.1	12	92.3
Improvements in local schools	8	57.1	10	76.9
Opportunities to own your own home	7	50.0	11	84.6
Guided tours of the area and developments	6	42.9	7	58.3
Community involvement in planning for the area	6	42.9	11	84.6
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	6	42.9	11	84.6
Culturally sensitive design features	5	35.7	12	92.3
Opportunities for renting from a Housing Association	3	21.4	5	38.5

In the main (although not exclusively), respondents whose willingness to move to the areas in question was influenced positively by BNG's activities were the same respondents who had already said they would consider the neighbourhood as a place to live. In other words, the impact of BNG's interventions on those respondents adamant that they would not consider places like Teams, Dunston, Walker Riverside and Benwell and Scotswood under any circumstances was relatively limited. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that amongst those who had not ruled out living in these areas, the activities which BNG were undertaking appeared to have relevance to them and were supported. It is also encouraging that the various interventions planned or ongoing in areas where Pakistani households are concentrated were similarly supported, suggesting that these activities are likely to open up new opportunities for Pakistani households in these locations and that they will benefit from them.

Respondents were also asked for their views on a range of 'hypothetical' interventions and developments in order to ascertain whether there are activities not currently planned in the BNG area which might encourage Pakistani households to take up the new opportunities arising as a result of BNG activities in the nine locations listed at the start of this section. The results are presented in Table 8.22 and show that in Newcastle the most common response focused on providing opportunities for friends and family to move together (i.e. several households moving at the same time to the same location), although many other activities,

including marketing and information about local services, and support to settle into an area were also popular. In Gateshead the most popular initiatives were improved safety, properties which incorporated culturally sensitive design features, and job opportunities.

BYKER OUSEBURN	
Popularity	Byker Ouseburn was the least popular of the areas discussed with Newcastle respondents only 1 of whom (out of 14) said they would consider living in this area .
Deterrent	The main concern with Byker Ouseburn, located east of the city centre and some distance from the main Pakistani residential cluster in the West of the City, was its distance from key facilities and community networks. A couple of respondents also raised concerns about social problems in the area and expressed the view that their personal safety may be at risk were they to move there.
Changing Attitudes	N/A

WALKER RIVERSIDE	
Popularity	Few Pakistani households live in the eastern segment of the Newcastle BNG area and only 2 out of 14 respondents showed an interest in moving into Walker Riverside. The remaining 12 respondents said they would not consider living in the area under and circumstances.
Deterrent	The majority of respondents unwilling to move to Walker Riverside explained that it was too far from key facilities and from other members of the Pakistani community. It is, therefore, the location of this neighbourhood and its distance from the established area of Pakistani settlement and the community facilities and social networks associated with this cluster that render it unattractive to the Pakistani population as a place to live.
Changing Attitudes	N/A

BENWELL AND SCOTSWOOD	
Popularity	Benwell and Scotswood was not particularly popular amongst Pakistani respondents although the area appeared to hold a greater attraction compared with Byker and Ouseburn, and Walker Riverside. In total, 9 out of 15 Newcastle respondents said they would not consider living in Benwell and Scotswood under any circumstances, 5 said they would consider living in the area and 1 was unsure.
Deterrent	Of those respondents stating that they would not consider living in Benwell and Scotswood, the majority (6 out of 9) pointed to perceived social problems in the area when asked to provide reasons for their stated reluctance to live there.
Changing Attitudes	<p>Given that respondents main concern about Benwell and Scotswood was the social problems they perceived to be an issue in the area it was not surprising that many responded positively to proposed activities seeking to improve the reputation of Benwell and Scotswood. In total, 9 out of 15 respondents said such interventions would increase their willingness to move to Benwell and Scotswood.</p> <p>In total, 8 respondents agreed that if more family housing were provided in the area this would increase their willingness to consider moving there. Similarly, 8 respondents agreed that if some of the poorer quality and less popular housing were demolished and replaced by new housing this would also make them more likely to consider the area as a place to live.</p>

ELSWICK/NORTH BENWELL/ARTHURS HILL	
Popularity	Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill was the most popular of the areas discussed, with 8 out of 15 respondents stating a willingness to live there. Many of the Pakistani people interviewed were already living in this area and so questioning focused on whether they would consider <i>staying</i> in the area.
Deterrent	Amongst those who expressed reluctance to live in Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill, a clear consensus emerged on the primary factors deterring them from doing so. Most commonly, social and neighbourhood problems were cited by respondents to explain their reticence about living in the area (4 out of 8 respondents who said they would not consider living in Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill). In addition, 2 respondents expressed fears about their personal safety were they to live in the area and 2 said that the poor quality of the residential environment deterred them from considering the area as a place to live.
Changing Attitudes	<p>The various housing focused improvements planned or ongoing in Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill appear to have relevance to the Pakistani population. Over half of respondents (8 out of 15) said that refurbishment of selected properties would increase their willingness to live in the area and just under half (7) thought that replacing older housing with new properties would similarly impact positively on their desire to live in Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill.</p> <p>Greater regulation of private landlords was also viewed positively and as an important area of intervention with 8 respondent reporting that this would increase the likelihood they would consider Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill as a place to live. This may partly reflect that 20 per cent of Pakistani respondents (6 of the 30) were living in this tenure but it is also likely to have wider appeal if we consider that according to the Census a higher proportion of Pakistani households live in the private rented sector than the wider BNG population (18.3 per cent of Pakistani households compared with 10.7 per cent of BNG residents rent from a private landlord) .</p> <p>Asked what additional improvements would make them more likely to consider living in the area, respondents focused on interventions designed to tackle social problems such as crime, anti-social behaviour and harassment (3 respondents) and on improving facilities in the neighbourhood (2 respondents).</p>

DISCOVERY QUARTER (INCLUDING THE BREWERY SITE)	
Popularity	The Discovery Quarter was relatively popular among Pakistani respondents, second only to Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill. Half of respondents (7 out of 14) said they would consider living in this area.
Deterrent	Only 6 respondents said they would not consider living in this area under any circumstances and one was unsure. These 7 Pakistani people were unable to point to any particular reason why they were reluctant to live in the Discovery Quarter but 3 respondents said their reluctance was <i>not</i> underpinned by concerns for their personal safety, 3 reported that social and neighbourhood problems were not a key concern, and the area was not considered to be too far from facilities and community networks or to be environmentally unattractive.
Changing Attitudes	N/A

DUNSTON	
Popularity	Dunston was very unpopular amongst Pakistani respondents, with only 1 reporting a willingness to live there. When asked precisely where in Dunston he would consider living, this respondent replied <i>"on the border with Whickham"</i> , and was very clear that he would not consider living in any other part of Dunston. The part of Dunston which borders Whickham does not, in fact, fall within the BNG area and so overall, no respondent expressed a willingness to live within the BNG area of Dunston.
Deterrent	The location of Dunston, which is some distance from the community facilities and networks in Bensham and Saltwell, was a key influence on respondents unwillingness to live in the area . Indeed 7 of the 12 respondents who provided reasons why they would not live in Dunston pointed to the lack of, or distance from key facilities and community networks, while 6 said that the perceived social problems in the area would deter them from moving there.
Changing Attitudes	<p>Although Pakistani respondents' reluctance to live in Dunston stemmed primarily from perceived social problems in the neighbourhood and its distance from the Pakistani cluster in Bensham and Saltwell, a number of people responded positively to the idea of housing-related improvements. Thus, 5 out of 15 respondents said that more family housing in the area might encourage them to move there and 4 respondents thought that if some of the poorer quality and less popular properties were demolished and replaced with new housing this would also increase their willingness to consider Dunston as a place to live.</p> <p>Nevertheless, nearly half of respondents (7) said there was absolutely nothing that could be done in Dunston to make them consider living there.</p>

TEAMS	
Popularity	Teams was relatively unpopular with Pakistani households, although not quite to the same extent as Dunston, with only 3 out of 15 respondents saying they would consider living there.
Deterrent	Most commonly, respondents feared for their personal safety in Teams (5 out of 9 respondents who were able to provide reasons why they would not live in Teams) and social and neighbourhood problems were also a key concern (4 respondents). Discussing these issues further, it transpired that racial harassment in particular was a key influence on respondents' unwillingness to consider living in this area. Respondents perceived Teams to be a ' <i>white area</i> ' where Pakistani people were not welcome by the local community and where they would suffer harassment and abuse.
Changing Attitudes	Such was the strength of respondents' views about Teams that 11 said there was nothing that could be done in the area to make them more likely to consider living there. The remaining 4 respondents reacted positively to the prospect of refurbishment activities in the area and 3 of these reported that replacing older properties with new housing would make them more likely to consider living in Teams. All of those who responded positively to planned interventions in Teams were people who had already indicated a willingness to consider the area.

FELLING BYPASS CORRIDOR	
Popularity	Only 4 Pakistani respondents reported a willingness to live in the Felling Bypass Corridor (FBC), while 10 said they would not live there under any circumstances and one was unsure. Amongst those reluctant to consider the FBC as a place to live one had previously been resident there and another had previously run a business in the area.
Deterrent	The principal concern for most respondents (6 out of 9) was the social and neighbourhood issues such as crime and anti-social behaviour which they perceived to be particular problems in the FBC. However, the lack of decent or suitable housing was also deterring respondents (4 out of 9) from living in the area.
Changing Attitudes	In total, 9 respondents were adamant that nothing would influence them to consider the FBC as a place to live. The proposed and ongoing activities in the area were, however, of interest to the remaining 6 respondents, many of whom were very positive about the range of housing-related interventions in the FBC. For example, all 6 of these individuals reported that the demolition and new-build on Sunderland Road would increase their willingness to consider living in the area, 5 of these were interested in the development of new housing for sale or rent in the FBC area, and 5 responded positively to the replacement of unpopular flats with new housing on the Brandling estate. In addition, improvement to Felling town centre and to local services was of interest to 5 respondents who said this would positively influence their attitudes towards living in the area.

BENSHAM AND SALTWELL	
Popularity	The Pakistani population of Gateshead is concentrated in Bensham and Saltwell, the only part of Gateshead where community and religious facilities such as the Mosque and community centres are available. Most of the Pakistani people interviewed were currently living in this neighbourhood. It is no surprise, then, that Bensham emerged as the most popular of the areas discussed with Pakistani respondents. Only 2 out of 15 respondents said they would not consider living in this neighbourhood.
Deterrent	The reluctance of the two respondents who said they would not consider living in Bensham and Saltwell stemmed from a perception that the neighbourhood suffered various social problems (1 respondent), that their personal safety may be at risk if they were to move there (1 respondent), and that the quality of the local environment was generally poor (1 respondent).
Changing Attitudes	<p>Most Gateshead respondents (12 out of 15) were already living in Bensham and Saltwell and so these individuals were asked whether the various interventions planned for the area would increase the likelihood of them <i>staying in</i>, rather than <i>moving to</i>, the area. This provided a useful gauge of whether plans for the area were relevant to the local Pakistani population and whether they would, therefore, be likely to benefit from them.</p> <p>Interventions planned or ongoing in Bensham were received positively by Pakistani respondents. Greater provision of open spaces was particularly popular with all but one respondents saying this would encourage them to stay in Bensham. The majority (12 out of 14) expressed an interest in newly built houses with gardens off Saltwell Road and 11 out of 15 said conversion of Tyneside flats into 6 bedroom properties would encourage them to stay in the area. In addition, respondents pointed to a series of other interventions and developments which they felt were needed in the area and which would increase their willingness to remain living there. Many of these focused on improving services and facilities, for example: <i>“Need a larger mosque, the current place is not suitable”</i>, <i>“Improve the shopping areas”</i> and <i>“Asian clothes shops”</i>. Many also pointed to the importance of property-related improvements: <i>“Better housing”</i>, <i>“Refurbishment of properties to improve the condition of the housing”</i>, <i>“Decent houses”</i></p>

Orthodox Jewish Residential Situations and Experiences

9.1 Introduction

This profile of the Orthodox Jewish Population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area draws primarily on a survey of 107 minority ethnic households in the BNG area, conducted by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University, 14 of whom were Orthodox Jewish. These data are supplemented with relevant insights from local evidence and discussions with Orthodox Jewish community representatives. Some data from the Census are presented. However, these data are limited and the Census is widely acknowledged locally to vastly undercount the number of Orthodox Jewish households in the area so very limited use has been made of these data in this report. The Orthodox Jewish community of the BNG area is almost exclusively concentrated in Gateshead and so all the evidence and discussion in this report relates solely to the Gateshead BNG area.

According to the Census of population there were 1510 Jewish people living in the Gateshead BNG area in 2001 where they comprised 2.3 per cent of the population. However, locally available evidence suggests that Orthodox Jewish people in fact number more than 4,000, approximately 1,500 of whom are students (Jewish Community Council, 2005; Gateshead Council, 2005). The population therefore fluctuates during the year with more Orthodox Jewish people present in the area during term time. According to local evidence and community representatives, the Orthodox Jewish community in Gateshead is the third largest in Britain (Jewish Community Council, 2005) and is a largely academic community which has established internationally renowned educational establishments and centres for learning, described as combining to form the 'largest Jewish education complex in Europe' (Anon, undated b, p8).

9.2 Profile of the Orthodox Jewish Population in the BNG Area

There are a series of serious weaknesses in the Census data which effectively render them useless for obtaining information about the Orthodox Jewish population. For example:

- they do not capture the total population: as outlined above, the Census is widely acknowledged locally to vastly undercount the size of the Orthodox Jewish population in the BNG area.
- the Jewish population of Gateshead is an *orthodox* community and it is this specific population which is the focus of our enquiries. Census data only record whether people are 'Jewish' and so some of those captured in this category will be non- Orthodox Jews.
- much of the data collected by the Census has only been analysed, or is only available, by ethnicity not by religion
- none of the ethnic identifiers employed by the Census can be utilised as a 'proxy' for Orthodox Jewish people (for example 'White Other') because they apparently classify their ethnicity in different ways. For example, of the 1510 people recorded as Jewish in the Gateshead BNG area in 2001, 50.1 per cent were categorised as White British, 42.9 per cent as White Other and 5.0 per cent as Other Ethnic Group. It should also be acknowledged that many people refused to state their religion. In the CRESR survey

similarly, 6 people classified themselves as White British, 6 as White Other and 2 as 'Other'.

Census data have not, therefore, been utilised in this profile report of the Orthodox Jewish community in the Gateshead BNG areas. However, some Census tables have been presented below for reference

Table 9.1: Age Profile

Age profile	0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
All people	19.8	11.7	36.0	11.3	5.0	9.1	7.2	64,887
Jewish	40.9	32.4	15.6	4.9	1.0	3.5	1.8	1,503

Table 9.2: Qualifications

	No qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5	Other qualifications or level unknown	Total aged 16-74
Jewish	22.4	9.4	42.8	6.3	14.7	4.3	883
All people	43.8	16.4	17.2	5.7	10.1	6.8	47395

Table 9.3: Economic Activity

	Jewish (N=856)	All people (N=47376)
Economically Active	32.7	57.1
Employee - Part-time	14.7	11.5
Employee - Full-time	6.8	34.8
Self Employed - Part-time	4.2	0.8
Self Employed - Full-time	3.4	2.8
Unemployed	2.2	5.2
Full-time student	1.4	1.9
Economically Inactive	67.3	42.9
Retired	1.6	14.1
Student	52.7	5.0
Looking after home/family	9.1	7.3
Permanently sick or disabled	1.2	12.0
Other	2.7	4.6

Table 9.4: Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SeC)

	All people (N=47363)	Jewish (N=862)
Higher managerial & professional occupations	3.5	4.1
Lower managerial & professional occupations	11.5	14.4
Intermediate occupations	8.7	5.6
Small employers and own account workers	3.6	4.9
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	7.9	0.0
Semi-routine occupations	13.9	2.7
Routine occupations	13.5	0.6
Never worked and long term unemployed	7.1	7.5
Never worked	5.2	6.8
Long term unemployed	1.9	0.7
Full-time students	6.7	53.6

Table 9.5: Household Structure

	Jewish households (N=243)	All households (N=29619)
<i>One Person</i>	14.0	39.2
pensioner	9.9	16.5
other	4.1	22.7
<i>One Family and no other</i>	77.0	55.6
All pensioners	7.8	6.7
Married Couple Households	65.4	28.0
with no children	5.8	9.8
with one dependent child	6.6	5.3
with two or more dependent children	50.2	7.2
all children non-dependent	2.9	5.7
Cohabiting Couple Households	1.2	8.0
with no children	0.0	4.3
with one dependent child	0.0	1.8
with two or more dependent children	1.2	1.6
all children non-dependent	0.0	0.3
Lone Parent Households	2.5	13.0
with one dependent child	0.0	5.3
with two or more dependent children	1.2	3.9
all children non-dependent	1.2	3.8
<i>Other households</i>	9.1	5.2
with one dependent child	0.0	0.9
with two or more dependent children	6.6	1.1
all students	0.0	0.0
all pensioners	1.2	0.4
other	1.2	2.7

Table 9.6: Tenure

	Jewish (N=236)	All people (N=29608)
<i>Owned</i>	58.1	45.7
Owns outright	28.8	16.2
Owns with mortgage or loan	29.2	29.0
Shared ownership	0.0	0.5
<i>Social rented</i>	11.9	41.2
Rented from council	3.8	33.7
Other social rented	8.1	7.5
<i>Private rented</i>	28.8	11.6
Private landlord or letting agency	22.5	10.4
Employer of a household member	0.0	0.1
Relative or friend of a household member	6.4	1.1
Other	0.0	0.1
<i>Living rent free</i>	1.3	1.5

A total of 14 Orthodox Jewish people (5 female and 9 male), were interviewed as part of the CRESR survey of minority ethnic households, ranging in age from 24 to 45, most of whom (8) were aged between 25-34. Other key characteristics included:

- 12 out of 14 respondents were married and 2 were divorced
- 8 respondents were currently working, but only one of these was working full time and none held permanent positions. Of those not currently working, 3 were students (2 full time and 1 part time) and 3 were looking after the home.
- All respondents had dependent children. Most commonly respondents had 3 children (6 people) but 5 respondents had 4 children or more (1 had 4 children, 2 had five children and 2 had six children). The average household size of Orthodox Jewish respondents was, therefore, relatively large at 5.8 persons per household. This is consistent with other local studies of the Orthodox Jewish population.
- Most respondents (10) were born in the UK but only 4 of these were born in Gateshead. The remaining 6 had come to Gateshead from Newcastle, Manchester and London.

9.3 Residential Situations and Experiences

9.3.1. Settlement patterns

The Orthodox Jewish community of Gateshead is concentrated in Bensham, apparently clustering in particular locations within this neighbourhood, including 'The Avenues' and the Prince Consort Road area (Social Regeneration Consultants, 2005). Another source suggests that the broad area within which most of the Jewish families live incorporates Prince Consort Road, Saltwell Road, Whitehall Road, Bewick Road and Durham Road (Gateshead Council, 2005).

It is important to remember that, despite making up a relatively small proportion of the total Gateshead BNG population, the concentration of the Orthodox Jewish population in Bensham means that Orthodox Jewish people constitute a significant proportion of that area's population. It is not possible to enumerate this with precision. However, if we assume that the local estimate of the size of the Orthodox Jewish population (4,000) is accurate and accept that the vast majority, if not all, of these households will live in Bensham (most probably reside in the ward of Bensham, but the *neighbourhood* typically referred to as Bensham does also straddle Saltwell ward where some Orthodox Jewish households may reside) then a very indicative figure can be generated as follows:

- Assuming that all 4,000 Orthodox Jewish people live in the ward of Bensham, they comprise 53.5 per cent of the ward population
- Assuming that all 4,000 Orthodox Jewish people live either in the ward of Bensham or in the ward of Saltwell, they comprise 25.6 per cent of the aggregate population of these two wards.

It is not surprising, then, that one local study suggests the Orthodox Jewish community acts as a stabilising force Bensham (and the North of the area in particular), propping up demand for housing in the area (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners Ltd, Undated). Not all these households, however, will be permanent residents of Bensham, with many settling temporarily in the area while they study in the many Orthodox Jewish educational establishments there.

9.3.2. Housing Situations

The vast majority (74 per cent) of the Orthodox Jewish population of the Gateshead BNG area are reported to live in terraced housing (David Couttie Associates, 2003a), possibly reflecting the predominance of terraced housing in the particular neighbourhood where the Jewish population is clustered. This is also reflected in the CRESR survey sample where 11 respondents were living in terraced housing, and the remaining 3 were living in Tyneside flats.

Nearly all Orthodox Jewish survey respondents were currently renting their home, 7 from a housing association and 6 from a private landlord. The remaining respondent was staying in a property owned by someone else. Most of these households (11) had been resident in their accommodation for less than 5 years, a reflection perhaps of the high proportion of private renters in the sample but also the fact that the new-build accommodation in which several respondents were living had only been developed relatively recently.

9.3.3. Housing Conditions and Suitability

Various familiar problems and challenges are revealed in the local evidence base, including a lack of (or inability to secure) adequately sized properties in preferred locations, associated problems of overcrowding, poor living conditions in the private sector and concerns about racial harassment (Social regeneration Consultants, 2005: David Couttie Associates, 2003a: University of Sunderland and University of Essex 2000). Discussions with Orthodox Jewish community representatives and the results of the CRESR survey suggest that the principle concern of many members of this community is the mismatch between the size of their accommodation and their space requirements. For example:

- Most respondents (9) were living in 3 bedroom properties yet they have larger than average household sizes with some households containing 9 or more members. Table 9.7 shows that no Orthodox Jewish person interviewed for the CRESR survey was living in a household containing less than 4 members, and that 5 respondents (35.6 per cent) were living in households comprising more than 6 members. A community representative explained that, typically, a Jewish family will have 6-8 children.
- All but 1 respondent said they would like a 5 or 6 bedroom house and there was no demand whatsoever for properties with less than 5 bedrooms. Other local studies have similarly found no demand for properties with less than four bedrooms amongst Orthodox Jewish households planning to move in the next five years (David Couttie Associates, 2003a)
- Various local reports and surveys identify inadequate property size as a primary source of housing dissatisfaction amongst the Jewish community across all tenures (David Couttie Associates, 2003a: 2004).
- When asked to specify up to three things that would most improve their current housing situation, all but 1 respondent said they required a larger house. No other issue was cited by more than 4 respondents (moving to a property with a garden).
- Of the 12 respondents who expressed a desire to move house in the next two years all said they wanted to do so in order to obtain larger housing.

The reflections and comments of local council officers interviewed by the research team concurred with these findings, reference regularly being made to the limited availability of appropriate housing. Understanding of the reasons for these housing experiences tended to focus on the mismatch between the housing stock in the areas of Bensham and Saltwell, where Jewish households want to reside because of local community and religious facilities and networks, and the design, size and quality of the local stock. This chimes with the findings from the CRESR survey where all those respondents who said they would like to move house (12 people) reported that a lack of alternative or more suitable housing in the area (amongst other things) was preventing them from doing so. This is not surprising given that Bensham and Saltwell is characterised by high density housing: over 90 per cent of the housing stock in the area is flatted accommodation and terraced housing, where space is more limited and poor housing conditions are often concentrated (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners Ltd, undated).

Table 9.7. Household Size

Number of people in household	Number of respondents	%
4	3	21.4
5	6	42.9
6	1	7.1
7	1	7.1
8	1	7.1
9	2	14.3
Total	14	100

The difficulties many Orthodox Jewish households are apparently encountering accessing suitably sized accommodation were not reflected in levels of housing satisfaction, which were reasonably high. Of the 14 Orthodox Jewish people interviewed, 11 (78.6 per cent) said they were satisfied with their home and 9 reported being satisfied with the condition (i.e. state of repair) of their home (see table 9.8).

Table 9.8: Satisfaction with Current Accommodation

	Overall satisfied with current accommodation		Satisfaction with state of repair of current accommodation	
	Number	%	Number	%
Very satisfied	5	35.7	2	14.3
Fairly satisfied	6	42.9	7	50.0
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	0	0.0	3	21.4
Fairly dissatisfied	2	14.3	1	7.1
Very dissatisfied	1	7.1	1	7.1
Total	14	100	14	100

9.4. Neighbourhood Situations and Experiences

All the Orthodox Jewish people interviewed were living in Bensham, in Gateshead, and 12 out of 15 of these expressed satisfaction with the neighbourhood (4 were very satisfied and 8 were fairly satisfied). Only 1 respondent reported dissatisfaction with the neighbourhood and 1 occupied a neutral position with regard to this issue. This relatively high rate of neighbourhood satisfaction concurs with the results of another local study which found that Jewish households were the group most satisfied with their area (compared with minority ethnic groups and White British households) and that levels of neighbourhood satisfaction had risen significantly since 1997 (Gateshead Council, 2003).

Chiming with the findings of other local studies (for example University of Sunderland and University of Essex, 2000) it was the presence of local facilities and services which appeared to inform CRESR survey respondents' satisfaction with their local neighbourhood, with 11 out of 13 people stating that this was one of three things they most like about the area (See table 9.9). Similarly, when asked to specify up to three things they would most miss if they left the area 10 out of 13 cited local services and facilities (see table 9.10).

Table 9.9: What do you most like about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
local services and facilities	11	84.6
Friends and family nearby	7	53.8
Friendliness/sense of community	5	38.5
The quality of the local environment	2	15.4
Employment	2	15.4
Transport / links to other areas	1	7.7
The housing	1	7.7

n=13

In the main, when talking about local services and facilities, respondents were referring specifically to the specialist Jewish community facilities available in the Bensham – the Synagogue, shops selling Kosher food and local Jewish educational establishments - rather than generic services such as health centres and leisure centres. Similarly, many respondents stressed the importance of the local social networks of kith and kin, of living within an Orthodox Jewish community, near to people with similar values and religious beliefs and the feeling of friendship and community which this brings (see tables 9.9 and 9.10). The following quotes are illustrative of the comments of many:

“A feeling of community – near friends and spiritual and religious facilities”

“Close to Jewish facilities – Kosher shops etc”

“Close to other Jewish families”

“The Jewish community centre is nearby, all services are local”

“Like minded people”

For Orthodox Jewish people, perhaps more so than any other religious community, living in close proximity to cultural and religious facilities is essential. Prohibited from driving on the Sabbath, they must live within walking distance of places of worship and other religious and cultural amenities. It is not surprising, then, that this emerged as a key priority for Orthodox Jewish respondents.

Table 9.10: What would you most miss about your neighbourhood if you moved elsewhere?

	Number	%
local services and facilities	10	76.9
Friends and family nearby	9	69.3
Friendliness/sense of community	5	38.5
The quality of the local environment	2	15.4
Transport / links to other areas	1	7.7

n=13

Despite relatively high levels of neighbourhood satisfaction, respondents did raise a host of issues and problems associated with living in Bensham. Respondents were asked (in an open ended question which was subsequently coded) to specify up to three things they disliked about living in their neighbourhood and all were able point to aspects if the area they disliked. Table 9.11 shows that security and personal safety issues were of principle concern, followed by environmental issues such as the run down appearance of the neighbourhood, litter, dog fouling and such like. For example:

“Anti-social behaviour, abuse, scary incidents”

“Safety and security is not that high, there are problems with youth and harassment”

“A bit of a grey look. The houses are run down.”

“There are problems with young people aggravating”

“Anti-social behaviour, some attacks even, drinking, parties”

“Vandalism to properties and cars”

Table 9.11: What do you most dislike about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
Security / personal safety	11	78.6
Environmental issues (noise, litter, run down)	8	57.1
Housing (e.g. type, size, quality, condition)	4	28.6
Racism/racial harassment	3	21.4
Lack of / poor local services and facilities	1	7.1
General quality of life concerns	0	0.0
Traffic issues	0	0.0
Nothing	0	0.0

n=14

Although few respondents specified racial harassment when asked what they most disliked about their neighbourhood, experiences and fear of racial harassment appear to be commonplace. For example, 61 per cent of Jewish respondents to one survey reported that racial harassment and attacks were a problem in their area (Gateshead Council, 2003) and racial harassment and discrimination (including anti-Semitism and racist attacks) was the most commonly reported problem by Jewish people living in Bensham and Saltwell in a rapid participatory appraisal carried out in 2000 (University of Sunderland and University of Essex, 2000). In the CRESR survey, when questioned further on this issue, 12 of the 14 respondents (85.7 per cent) reported having experienced racial harassment in the past 12 months, ranging from name calling to physical attacks. All respondents said they thought racial harassment was a problem in their neighbourhood and 7 of these thought it was a serious problem. Respondents described some of their experiences:

"A bottle was thrown at me, broken windows, graffiti on my door"

"Verbal abuse, egg throwing, and a knife brandished"

"Name calling, pushing and shoving me, spitting – in town and in the neighbourhood"

"I've had a broken window and eggs thrown from a passing car"

It appears that for many Orthodox Jewish people racial harassment and abuse is a daily or weekly occurrence and some respondents reported that they often suffered harassment several times in one day. There is evidence that Orthodox Jewish people often fail to report such incidents with 5 of the 12 people who had experienced racial harassment in the past 12 months saying that they had not reported this to any agency. Several of these explained that they had not considered the incident 'serious enough' to warrant reporting, yet at least one of these had been physically attacked. Of the 7 respondents who *had* reported racial harassment perpetrated against them, 6 reported this to the police, 2 to their landlord and 4 to a community group.

Given the apparently high incidence of racial harassment suffered by Orthodox Jewish respondents it is not surprising that many devise strategies for avoiding such abuse. In fact all 14 respondents pointed to ways in which they adapt their lives in order to avoid harassment. Avoiding particular locations where they felt they were at greater risk of harassment and abuse was common, as was avoiding leaving the house at certain times. Some respondents explained:

"I avoid certain locations"

"I don't go out after a certain time"

"I avoid going out in the evening. I avoid moving about after school time"

"I won't go on particular streets, even when I'm driving"

9.5. Housing Aspirations, Choices and Actions

As reported in section 2, 12 of the 14 Orthodox Jewish respondents said they would like to move house in the next 2 years and all of these cited a requirement for a larger property as one of the main reasons wanting to do so. Table 9.12 presents the full range of reasons provided by respondents for wanting to move house (they were able specify more than one reason) and shows that the majority were also keen to move into a different tenure. Six of these were currently resident in the private rented sector and four were renting from a housing association.

Table 9.12: Proportion of respondents who wanted to move for each of the following reasons

	Number	%
To obtain a larger property	12	100.0
To have a garden/bigger garden	10	83.3
To change tenure	10	83.3
To move to a different street	5	41.7
To escape poor living conditions	4	33.3
To be nearer the school	3	25.0
To move to a different neighbourhood	1	8.3
To move closer to family	2	16.7
To be nearer services and facilities	2	16.7
To be nearer employment	2	16.7
To move nearer friends or associates	1	8.3

n=12

Exploring respondents' tenure preferences in more detail reveals that most would *ideally* like to own their own homes and 11 out of 14 said they would consider buying a property with a mortgage, more than reported an interest in any other tenure. However, acknowledging that home ownership was financially beyond reach (10 out of 12 respondents reported being unable to buy without a mortgage and 5 out of 11 could not afford to buy with the help of a mortgage), the option of renting from a housing association was very popular amongst Orthodox Jewish respondents, 10 out of 12 of whom said they would consider this tenure if they moved house. Unfurnished private rented accommodation was also relatively popular with 7 out of 12 respondents saying they would consider this tenure, and more than half said they would consider an unfurnished tenancy with the Gateshead Housing Company (see table 9.13). Furnished accommodation in any tenure, however, was very unpopular.

Table 9.13: Proportion of respondents who would consider the following tenures if they moved:

Tenure	Number	%
Owning with a mortgage	11	78.6
Renting from a Housing Association	10	83.3
Renting from a Private Landlord - unfurnished	7	58.3
Renting from Gateshead Housing Company – unfurnished	6	54.5
Owning without a mortgage	4	40.0
Renting from a Private Landlord - furnished	1	8.3
Renting from Gateshead Housing Company – furnished	0	0.0
Tied accommodation	2	25.0

n=between 11 and 14

The relatively high proportion of respondents willing to consider social housing is of interest and may partly reflect the significant affordability problems facing many Orthodox Jewish households (discussed further below). It is also of interest that housing association properties were far more popular than those managed by the Gateshead Housing Company. In 1997 Home Housing Association built a development of 15 larger (5 bedroom) properties for shared ownership to help meet the needs of the Orthodox Jewish Community and other large families. The scheme was very well received and in high demand. The Orthodox Jewish community were consulted throughout and many religious and culturally sensitive design features were incorporated into the properties for the residents who had been selected to move into the scheme. Although these properties were built for shared ownership it is very

likely that this has impacted positively on Orthodox Jewish peoples' perceptions of housing association accommodation.

It was reported in section 2 that the limited availability of suitable housing in Bensham was presenting difficulties for respondents wanting to move house, with all 12 of those reporting a desire to move stating that a lack of alternative suitable accommodation was a key factor preventing them from doing so. Affordability also appears to be a key constraint on Orthodox Jewish households' ability to resolve their overcrowded conditions by moving house. One local survey, for example, found that amongst those wishing to move but unable to do so, affordability was the principal constraint on mobility (David Couttie Associates, 2003a) and of the 12 Orthodox Jewish people who reported wanting to move in the CRESR survey all said their financial circumstances prevented them from doing so.

An Orthodox Jewish community representative was keen to stress that the stereotype of wealthy Jewish business people simply did not apply in Gateshead with many households living in relative deprivation. He explained that the Orthodox Jewish community of Bensham is largely an academic, rather than a business community and as such incomes are not high. The combination of limited availability of larger housing, high demand for such properties which keeps prices high, and limited finances is effectively hampering Orthodox Jewish households' efforts to meet their housing needs. As one respondent commented, *"It's not easy to find a suitable house at a reasonable price"*

Despite these constraints on mobility, there is evidence to suggest that the limited availability of high quality and adequately sized properties in Bensham may be prompting some households to leave the area, when they would otherwise prefer to remain. One study, for example found that the population of the 'Avenues', reported to be an area of Jewish settlement, are generally satisfied with living in this area, but that outward mobility is being prompted primarily by a need for larger or better quality housing (Social Regeneration Consultants, 2005).

A local Orthodox Jewish community representative expanded on this issue, reporting that affordability issues were forcing some newly forming households to move away – not to other neighbourhoods in Gateshead but to Orthodox Jewish settlements in other towns and cities. He explained that most newly forming households wanted to remain resident in Bensham but were finding that they simply could not find suitable housing that they could afford. Their response was to consider alternative options elsewhere in the UK. This was reported to be true for some young people who had spent time in Israel completing their religious education (a common practice, apparently, amongst Orthodox Jewish people) and who, on their return to the UK, found they could not afford to live independently in Bensham.

It is not surprising then, that initiatives designed to assist people with purchasing their own home were very popular amongst Orthodox Jewish respondents. A number of studies have noted that demand exists for shared ownership amongst the Jewish population in Gateshead, and one report found that nearly 30 per cent of Jewish households wanting to move in the next five years expressed a preference for shared ownership. This was the same proportion as expressed a preference for renting and only slightly lower than the 41 per cent who wanted to buy their next home. (David Couttie Associates, 2003a; Social Regeneration Consultants, 2005.). Similar results emerged from the CRESR survey with 11 out of 12 respondents expressing an interest in shared ownership. Equity share and discounted home ownership schemes were also popular (see table 9.14).

Table 9.14: Proportion of respondents who would consider the following products and schemes designed to assist households with accessing home ownership

	Number	%
Shared ownership	11	78.6
Mortgages which reflect specific religious/cultural beliefs	2	16.7
Equity share	7	63.6
Discounted home ownership	9	64.3
Self-build	3	25.0

n=12

Despite a desire to move *house*, most Orthodox Jewish respondents (13) were very committed to remaining within Bensham, the only exception being 1 respondent who reported a desire to move elsewhere in the UK. In addition, when asked to reflect on their *ideal* housing situation (property size, tenure, location and so on) all respondents said that Bensham was the neighbourhood in which they would ideally like to live. The importance to Orthodox Jewish households of living in Bensham has been touched on in section 3 and is discussed further in section 5 below.

Orthodox Jewish respondents were not, however, happy and willing to live anywhere in Bensham and they had clear views about parts of the area (and particular streets) in which they would and would not live. A number of respondents (5) were keen to stress that they would generally not consider living in roads where *“the houses come straight onto the street”* and the general appearance of particular locations was also apparently off-putting to some. Thus respondents talked about some streets or locations as being *“a bit slummy, with boarded up houses”*, *“run down”* and *“a bit depressing”*. In addition, most commented that they would avoid any part of Bensham where no other Orthodox Jewish people lived. For example, respondents said they would not consider living on *“streets without Jewish people”*, on *“streets where there are no friends living there”*, or in *“any non-Jewish areas”* of Bensham. Similarly, when asked which parts of Bensham and Saltwell they *would* be happy to live in, all those who answered this question (12 people) said they would only consider locations where other Orthodox Jewish households resided. For example:

“In streets where the Jewish community live”

“Any part where there are members of the Jewish community”

“Any streets near the Jewish community”

The comments of Orthodox Jewish community representatives concurred with this, with one emphasising that this presents a significant barrier to resolving the housing difficulties facing many Orthodox Jewish people, namely the limited availability of larger properties in Bensham. He explained that demand for larger houses in the neighbourhood currently outstrips supply and this is likely to intensify as the population grows – growth which may be substantial given that Orthodox Jewish families are reported to have a minimum of 3 or 4 children. Unless there is a significant increase in supply of larger housing in the area, almost certainly prohibited by very limited land availability, the only option available to households wishing to stay in Gateshead is to move away from Bensham. Yet, Orthodox Jewish families are generally unwilling, as the results of the CRESR survey suggest, to consider living in locations where no other Orthodox Jewish households are resident and where no religious and communities facilities are available.

This prompted one community representative to suggest that alongside initiatives to extend existing properties (for example by converting two Tyneside flats into one property, converting attics into bedrooms, and building back extensions, thereby reducing the need for new build in a context of limited land supply), some consideration should be given to ways of supporting Jewish families to establish new clusters elsewhere in Gateshead, and in parts of Bensham currently not populated by this community. He was not referring here to activities such as tenancy support but to the creation of relatively large residential areas to which Jewish households could move *‘en mass’* and where religious and community facilities were provided alongside housing. He acknowledged the difficulties inherent in embarking on such an initiative, and recognised that Orthodox Jewish households themselves may be reluctant to take such a bold step, but felt that the current situation for Orthodox Jewish people in Bensham was such that radical thinking was required.

9.6. Neighbourhood Attitudes and Preferences

Orthodox Jewish survey respondents were questioned about their attitudes toward and perceptions of particular locations within the BNG area, and about whether they would consider living in these locations. They were also asked about the potential of BNG’s strategic commissions within these locations to impact upon their willingness to consider

living in these areas. Respondents were asked about their attitudes towards four specific locations in the Gateshead BNG area where interventions are focussed:

- Dunston
- Teams
- Bensham and Saltwell
- Felling Bypass Corridor

With the exception of 1 person who reported a willingness to consider living in Teams no respondent said they would consider living anywhere but Bensham and Saltwell (see table 9.15). The respondents who expressed uncertainty about whether they would live in the Felling Bypass Corridor (FBC) or Dunston, was the same respondent who had reported a willingness to consider living in Teams.

When asked why they would not consider living in Dunston, Teams or the Felling Bypass Corridor respondents invariably replied *“because it is not Bensham”*. Some expanded on this explaining that there is no Orthodox Jewish community in any of these neighbourhoods and no religious or cultural facilities. Table 9.15 summarises the responses to questioning about these 4 neighbourhoods and the following comments were typical:

“I would not consider any other areas other than Bensham because I need to be 10 minutes walk from a synagogue”

“It is not a Jewish area”

“There’s no Jewish Community”

The range of interventions planned or ongoing in these areas was, therefore, of no consequence or interest to Orthodox Jewish respondents and had no impact whatsoever on their willingness to consider living in Dunston, Teams or the Felling Bypass Corridor. The only positive responses received were from the 1 respondent who had already indicated a willingness to consider Teams as a place to live and reported that the range of interventions planned there would increase the likelihood of him doing so.

Table 9.9: Respondents perceptions of different BNG areas

Would you consider living in...?				Why not? (most popular responses)
	Yes	No	Not sure	
Dunston	0	13	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not Bensham • Lack of / too far from facilities
Teams	1	13	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not Bensham • Lack of / too far from facilities
Felling Bypass Corridor	0	13	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not Bensham • Lack of / too far from facilities
Bensham and Saltwell	14	0	0	N/A

It was encouraging, however, that people responded relatively positively to the various interventions planned or ongoing in their own neighbourhood of Bensham suggesting that these activities are likely to open up new opportunities for Orthodox Jewish households and that they will benefit from them. The proposal to convert Tyneside flats in order to create larger properties was supported by all 14 respondents and the creation of more open and green spaces was also popular (10 people said this would make them more likely to stay in the area). Out of the 12 people who commented, 7 responded positively to the refurbishment of properties on Westbourne Avenue and Saltwell Road.

Respondents were also asked for their views on a range of ‘hypothetical’ interventions and developments in order to ascertain whether there are activities not currently planned in the

BNG area which might encourage Orthodox Jewish households to take up the new opportunities arising as a result of BNG activities in the 4 neighbourhoods under discussion. The results are presented in Table 9.10 and show that the most popular of these activities were opportunities for friends and family to move together (i.e. several households moving at the same time to the same location), the development of larger properties, opportunities for home ownership and improved safety and security. Culturally sensitive design features and opportunities to rent from a Housing Association were also very popular. A note of caution is required here, however. The areas in which strategic commissions are being actioned includes Bensham and Saltwell and the vehemence with which respondents reported not wanting to move away from this neighbourhood suggests that their responses to this question should not be interpreted as an increased willingness to move to Dunston, Teams or the Felling Bypass Corridor if certain activities were undertaken in these locations. Rather, in most cases responses probably indicate that these are initiatives which respondents would like to see actioned in Bensham and Saltwell.

Table 9.10: Proportion of respondents who said the following activities would make them more likely to take up opportunities in the locations where BNG interventions are focused

	Dunston, Teams, FBC and Bensham and Saltwell	
	Number	%
Opportunities for friends/family to move together	13	92.9
The development of properties for larger families	13	92.9
Opportunities to own your own home	13	92.9
Improved safety and security	13	92.9
Culturally sensitive design features	12	85.7
Opportunities for renting from a Housing Association	12	85.7
Community involvement in planning for the area	11	78.6
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	10	71.4
Marketing or information sharing	9	64.3
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups	9	64.3
Help to settle in a new areas	8	57.1
Improved public transport	7	50.0
Guided tours of the area and developments	6	42.9
Improvements in local schools	4	40.0
Job opportunities	3	23.1
Information about local services, resources and transport	0	0.0

Chinese Residential Situations and Experiences

10.1. Introduction

This profile of the Chinese population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area draws on three key data sources: the Census of Population (1991 and 2001); a survey of 107 minority ethnic households in the BNG area, conducted by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University and anecdotal evidence collected from two Chinese community representatives and one Chinese community development worker. The profile of the Chinese population in *Newcastle* utilises all three sources, whereas data on the Chinese population in *Gateshead* is based on the 1991 and 2001 Census only.

A total of 15 Chinese people (10 female and 5 male) were interviewed as part of the CRESR survey of ethnic minority households, all of whom lived in Newcastle. All were born outside the UK but nearly half had been living in the UK for over 20 years. The majority were British citizens but the sample also included those on a work permits and marriage visas, those with indefinite leave to remain and people not subject to immigration control on their arrival into the UK (Hong Kong and Portuguese Chinese). All Chinese respondents were aged between 28 and 65, the majority were married or in long-term relationships and just under half had children under the age of 16 living with them. Just over half of respondents were working, two were looking after the home, one was permanently sick or disabled and the remainder were retired. Most of the Chinese people interviewed were Buddhist, but a minority categorised themselves as having no religion. The first language of the majority was Cantonese. One third of the sample indicated that they or a member of their household had a health problem or long term illness or disability which limited their daily activities or the work they can do.

According to the Census of population there were a total of 1,193 Chinese people living in the BNG area in 2001, of which 973 lived in Newcastle (see table 10.1) where they comprised just 0.8 per cent of the Newcastle BNG population. In addition, there were 220 Chinese people living in the Gateshead BNG area, comprising just 0.3 per cent of the population.

Table 10.1: Number of Chinese people in the BNG Area

	Number of people
BNG Area	1,193
Newcastle BNG	973
Gateshead BNG	220

The Chinese population represents the second smallest minority ethnic group in the BNG area, albeit a population which is growing. While the BNG population as a whole decreased by 5 per cent between 1991 and 2001, the Chinese population grew in size by 39.5 per cent. Population growth has been more pronounced in Gateshead than in Newcastle: from a small base in 1991 of just 116 persons, the Chinese population of the Gateshead BNG area increased by 89 per cent between 1991 and 2001, compared with a 31.7 per cent increase in the Newcastle BNG area during the same period (see table 10.2). This growth in the Chinese population was attributed by one community representative to the increasing numbers of students and young families arriving in Britain to obtain a better education for themselves and their children. He characterised the diverse, and changing population in the following words:

“The numbers of Chinese people are growing. Some Chinese came here [Newcastle] 40 years ago, while others are third generation migrants. The community is made up of economic migrants, refugees, workers (on a permit) and students” (Chinese community representative).

Table 10.2: Population Change between 1991 and 2001

	BNG area			Newcastle-BNG			Gateshead-BNG		
	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change
Chinese	855	1,193	39.5	739	973	31.7	116	220	89.7
All people	202,314	192,117	-5.0	133,580	127,276	-4.7	68,734	64,841	-5.7

10.2. Profile of the Chinese Population in the BNG Area

The Chinese population in the BNG area in 2001 had a relatively young age profile, with few elderly residents and a high proportion of young people. While 18 per cent of the BNG Chinese population were aged between 0-15, a figure close to the average for the BNG area as a whole, the proportion of 0-15 year olds in Gateshead was well above average, at 28.6 per cent. The Chinese population across the BNG area comprised a relatively high proportion of people aged 16-25 and aged 25-49. In addition, the percentage of Chinese people in the BNG area aged 60 and over was noticeably lower than the corresponding figures for all people in the BNG area (see table 10.3). This raises the likelihood of natural population growth as births are likely to significantly outnumber deaths over the coming few decades. It is also likely to be an increasingly aging population – i.e. the BNG area will witness an increase in the number of elderly Chinese people which in turn may have implications for housing provision not currently in high demand from this ethnic group (adapted housing, bungalows, sheltered accommodation and so on).

Table 10.3: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75 and over	Total
Chinese	BNG area	17.6	28.3	42.4	4.6	2.4	3.8	0.9	1,195
	Newcastle-BNG	15.1	31.6	41.3	5.0	2.7	3.7	0.6	975
	Gateshead-BNG	28.6	13.6	47.3	2.7	1.4	4.1	2.3	220
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 10.4: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
Chinese	BNG	3.9	26.8	3.1	18.8	16.0	6.2	1.5	23.7	388
	Newcastle-BNG	3.7	28.5	3.7	16.9	16.3	6.4	1.8	22.7	326
	Gateshead-BNG	4.8	17.7	0.0	29.0	14.5	4.8	0.0	29.0	62
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Table 10.5: Change in the age structure of the Chinese population between 1991-2001

Percentage change in size of population		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75 and over	Total
Chinese	BNG area	40.0	61.7	31.3	-12.7	141.7	104.5	-15.4	39.8
	Newcastle-BNG	30.1	61.3	18.9	-15.5	225.0	100.0	-50.0	31.9
	Gateshead-BNG	70.3	66.7	121.3	20.0	-25.0	125.0	400.0	89.7
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>-5.8</i>	<i>-3.2</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-2.8</i>	<i>-19.0</i>	<i>-16.2</i>	<i>-5.4</i>	<i>-5.0</i>

In contrast to the decline in the general population of the BNG area, the Chinese population increased between 1991 and 2001 (see table 10.4). There has been an increase in all age groups (with the exceptions of the 50-59 year olds and the over 75's), most noticeably amongst 60-64 year olds in Newcastle and 65-74 year olds in both Newcastle and Gateshead. The most significant population growth has therefore been witnessed amongst older age groups, pointing to an increasingly aging Chinese population in the BNG area.

In terms of household composition there are notable differences between Chinese households and all BNG households, particularly with regard to single person households, and the relatively young age profile is reflected in the household structures of the Chinese population. For example, according to the Census there was a significantly smaller proportion of pensioners living alone in 2001 and the proportion of all pensioner households was approximately half that of the wider BNG population. This is perhaps a reflection of the tendency amongst the Chinese community for ageing parents to live with their children. As one local stakeholder commented:

"Elderly Chinese people tend to live with their children, although for some it's not ideal. Some of them would prefer to live near the city centre" (Chinese Community Voluntary Worker)

However, the household structure of Chinese households in the BNG area was similar in some respects to that found amongst the wider BNG population. For example, the percentages of couples with dependent children and without dependent children were broadly similar (to within 2 per cent) to the total BNG population (see table 10.4). Almost one-third of all Chinese households (32 per cent) in the BNG area comprised those with dependent children in 2001 compared with 27.9 per cent of all households in the BNG area. This similarity ceases, however, when comparing Chinese households in the *Gateshead* BNG area with all BNG households. In Gateshead 43.5 per cent of Chinese households contained at least one dependent child (see table 10.6).

Table 10.6: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
Chinese	BNG	32.0	124
	Newcastle-BNG	29.8	97
	Gateshead-BNG	43.5	27
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Levels of educational attainment amongst Chinese residents differ significantly from the wider BNG population. Chinese people appear to be relatively well educated with 29 per cent having no qualifications in 2001 compared with 48 per cent of all people in the BNG area in the same category. Most strikingly, the percentage of Chinese people with higher level qualifications was 39 per cent, compared to just 12.8 per cent of all people in the BNG area (see table 10.7). Not surprisingly, then, in socio-economic terms a higher than average proportion of the Chinese population 15.4 per cent were employed in managerial professional occupations (see table 10.8). Also of note were the relatively high proportion of Chinese people who are small employers and self-employed - 24.7 per cent compared to 5.6 per cent of all people in the BNG area.

Table 10.7: Qualifications¹⁹

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
Chinese	BNG	29.0	31.2	39.8	959
	Newcastle-BNG	26.6	31.7	41.7	812
	Gateshead-BNG	42.2	28.6	29.3	147
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		47.9	39.3	12.8	138,873

According to the Census, approximately 23 per cent of the Chinese population in the BNG area were in full or part-time employment in 2001, compared to 40 per cent of the wider BNG population (see table 10.9). These figures regarding full-time employment levels and 'non-working' do not, however, reflect significantly higher than average levels of *unemployment*. Rather, the figures reveal a reliance on *self*-employment. A key difference between the Chinese population and the wider BNG population is the proportion of Chinese people who were self-employed (either part-time or full-time). In the BNG area 4 per cent of the population was self-employed in 2001 compared with 10.2 per cent of the Chinese population in Newcastle. The difference is even more noticeable in Gateshead where the percentage of self-employed Chinese people stood at 23.8 per cent. Unemployment was less prevalent amongst Chinese people in the BNG area compared to the wider BNG population; 3.2 per cent and 5.8 per cent respectively. The proportion of the population permanently sick or disabled was also significantly lower (1.9 per cent compared with 11.3 per cent of the total BNG population).

Another notable disparity between the Chinese population and the BNG population is the proportion of students. Whereas 10.7 per cent of the general population in the BNG area were students in 2001, this figure rises to 46.1 per cent of the Chinese population. Perhaps reflecting the younger age profile of the Chinese population, only 5.7 per cent of Chinese people in the BNG area were retired compared to 13.2 of the total BNG population.

¹⁹ The base is those people aged 16-74.

Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where:

- Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
- Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1). 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+ 'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
- Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
- Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

Table 10.8: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long-term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
Chinese	BNG	15.4	9.0	3.2	24.7	7.5	18.8	8.7	12.8	9.2	3.6	469
	BNG Newcastle	17.8	7.6	4.1	21.6	7.8	18.1	10.3	12.7	8.9	3.8	370
	BNG Gateshead	6.1	14.1	0.0	36.4	6.1	21.2	3.0	13.1	10.1	3.0	99
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>6.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>93,602</i>

Table 10.9: Economic Activity

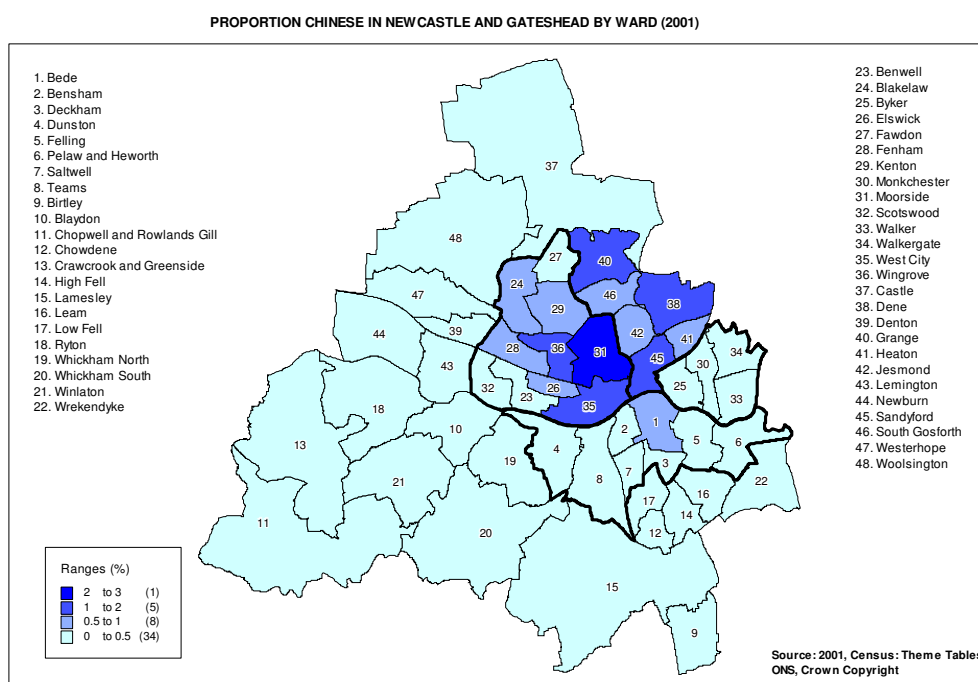
Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self-employed/ Full-time	Self-employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
Chinese	BNG	17.5	5.6	10.7	1.8	3.2	10.2	5.7	35.9	5.5	1.9	1.9	997
	Newcastle-BNG	16.6	6.2	8.7	1.5	2.8	10.5	5.5	40.2	4.5	1.6	1.9	825
	Gateshead-BNG	21.5	2.9	20.3	3.5	5.2	8.7	7.0	15.1	10.5	3.5	1.7	172
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>31.9</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>138,930</i>

10.3. Residential Situations and Experiences

This section charts the residential situations and experiences of the Chinese population in Newcastle and Gateshead, beginning with an exploration of Chinese households' settlement patterns. It then proceeds by examining the housing situations in which Chinese people in the BNG area are living, paying particular attention to the housing problems which Chinese people are apparently encountering.

10.3.1. Settlement Patterns

The Census suggests that the Chinese population in 2001 were more dispersed than many other minority ethnic groups, across local authority wards in Newcastle and Gateshead, although the numbers in each are relatively small (see map below).



As Table 10.10 shows, just over half (52.1 per cent) of *Newcastle's* Chinese population are settled within the BNG area. Most Chinese people living outwith the BNG area are living in wards adjacent to the BNG area, with clusters in Sandyford, Dene, Grange and Jesmond (see map above). One community representative suggested that the appeal of places such as Sandyford and Byker lay in their proximity and accessibility to the City Centre:

'They are fairly widely dispersed....but are settled in areas such as Byker, Heaton and Sandyford. All these areas are easily accessible to the city centre, which is an important issue especially for the elderly. Social networks and support are a major concern and many elderly Chinese want to live in close proximity to Chinese services, shops and social centres and Chinatown' (Chinese community representative).

Although table 10.10 shows that only 1.4 per cent of the Chinese population live in Byker, the perception of Byker as a popular neighbourhood amongst Chinese people is of interest: located in the East End of the City, Byker was reported to be particularly *unpopular* with many other minority ethnic groups.

Table 10.10: Chinese settlement patterns in Newcastle, by Local Authority ward (the BNG wards are shaded)

% of Newcastle's Chinese population in each ward		% of Newcastle's Chinese population in each ward	
Benwell	0.6	Castle	1.8
Blakelaw	5.1	Dene	10.5
Byker	1.4	Denton	1.0
Elswick	2.7	Grange	6.5
Fawdon	1.9	Heaton	2.8
Fenham	4.6	Jesmond	5.2
Kenton	3.8	Lemington	1.1
Monkchester	2.0	Newburn	0.6
Moorside	15.8	Sandyford	11.9
Scotswood	0.6	South Gosforth	3.3
Walker	0.6	Westerhope	1.7
Walkergate	1.5	Woolsington	1.5
West City	5.0		
Wingrove	6.5	Newcastle	100.0
		Newcastle (N)	1,871

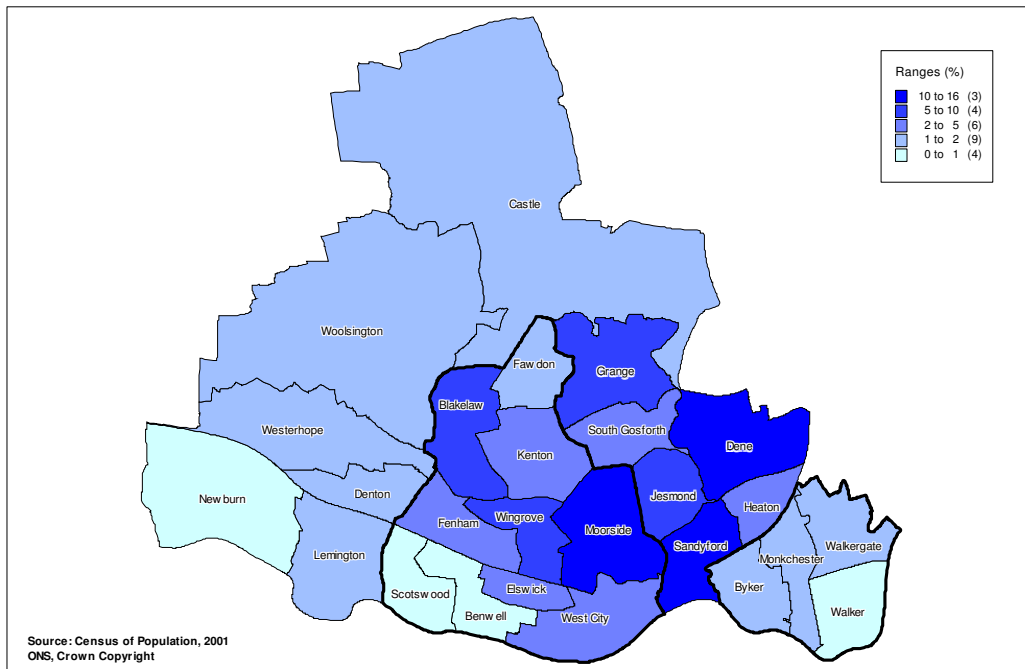
Table 10.11: Distribution of Newcastle BNG area's Chinese population across each BNG ward in Newcastle

Newcastle BNG wards	%
Benwell	1.2
Blakelaw	9.8
Byker	2.7
Elswick	5.1
Fawdon	3.7
Fenham	8.8
Kenton	7.4
Monkchester	3.8
Moorside	30.3
Scotswood	1.1
Walker	1.1
Walkergate	2.9
West City	9.6
Wingrove	12.4
Total Newcastle BNG	100.0

One-third (30.3 per cent) of the 973 Chinese people living *within* the Newcastle BNG area were resident in Moorside and 12.4 per cent were living in Wingrove. Other smaller concentrations included Blakelaw (9.8 per cent) and West City (9.6 per cent) (see table 10.11). Anecdotal evidence suggests that the dispersal of the Chinese population in Newcastle is a result of the shortage of (clusters of) suitable housing, causing people to cast the net wider in the search for areas in which to live. This is in contrast to the situation that Chinese immigrants found themselves in 40-50 years ago.

“When the first migrants came 40 years ago there were more houses available and they were able to buy houses in the same street, which is not the case now” (Chinese community representative).

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWCASTLE'S CHINESE POPULATION BY WARD (2001)



In *Gateshead*, 59.1 per cent of the Chinese population live within the BNG area, with a further 7.5 per cent living in Blaydon, and 5.6 per cent in Whickham South, which borders the BNG area (see Table 10.12 and map below). While relatively dispersed across the Gateshead BNG area significant clusters are found in Bede, Dunston and Teams. Table 10.13 shows that just over one quarter of the Chinese population of the Gateshead BNG area live in Bede while Dunston and Teams also have a significant share of Gateshead-BNG's Chinese population. Only a small proportion of Gateshead-BNG area's Chinese population live in Felling, Saltwell and Pelaw and Heworth.

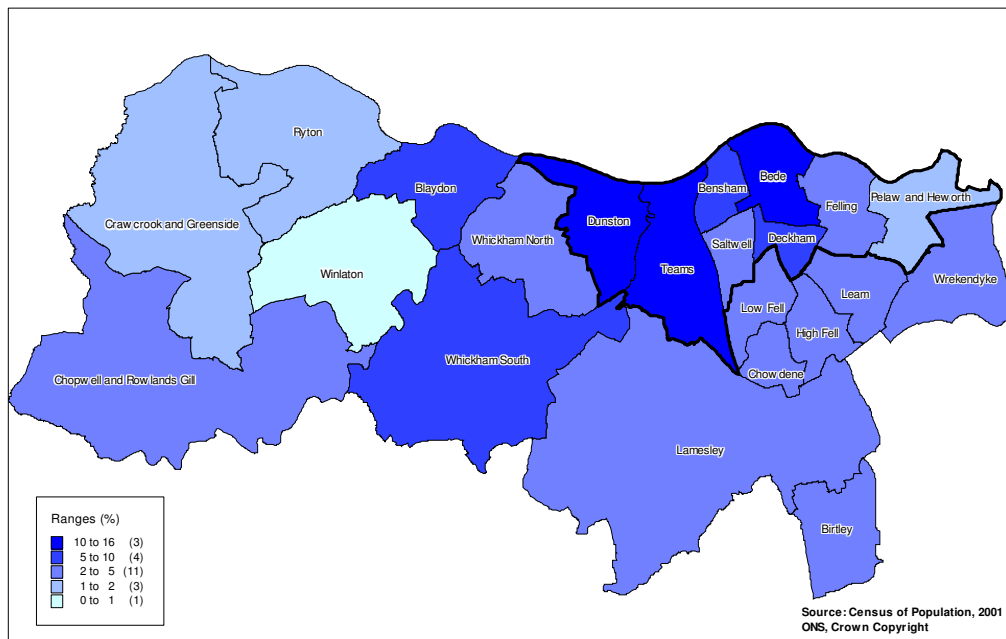
Table 10.12: Chinese settlement patterns in Gateshead, by Local Authority ward (the BNG wards are shaded)

% of Gateshead's Chinese population in each ward		% of Gateshead's Chinese population in each ward	
Bede	15.6	Birtley	3.0
Bensham	7.3	Blaydon	7.5
Deckham	5.4	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	2.7
Dunston	12.6	Chowdene	3.0
Felling	3.2	Crawcrook and Greenside	1.6
Pelaw and Heworth	1.6	High Fell	2.7
Saltwell	3.2	Lamesley	3.0
Teams	10.2	Leam	2.2
		Low Fell	2.2
		Ryton	1.6
		Whickham North	2.2
		Whickham South	5.6
		Winlaton	0.0
		Wrekendyke	3.8
		Gateshead	100.0
		Gateshead (N)	364

Table 10.13: Distribution of Gateshead BNG area's Chinese population across each BNG ward in Gateshead

Gateshead BNG wards	%
Bede	26.4
Bensham	12.3
Deckham	9.1
Dunston	21.4
Felling	5.5
Pelaw and Heworth	2.7
Saltwell	5.5
Teams	17.3
Total Gateshead BNG	100.0

DISTRIBUTION OF GATESHEAD'S CHINESE POPULATION BY WARD (2001)



10.3.2. Housing Situations

The Chinese population is concentrated in the private sector. Levels of owner-occupation amongst Chinese people are broadly consistent with those found amongst the total BNG population with 47.6 per cent of the Chinese population owning their own homes in 2001 compared to 46.1 per cent of the total BNG population (see table 10.14). Chinese people were significantly over-represented in the private rented sector: 25 per cent rented their home from a private landlord compared to 10.7 per cent of all people in the BNG area.

These figures do, however, mask some stark differences between Newcastle and Gateshead. In terms of the private rented sector, table 10.14 shows that the Chinese populations of the Newcastle and Gateshead BNG areas have very different tenure profiles. Chinese people in the *Newcastle* BNG area appear to be particularly reliant upon the private rented sector (28.1 per cent rent their home from a private landlord) but levels of owner occupation are low (just 28.6 per cent own their own home). In contrast, the majority of Chinese people in the *Gateshead* BNG area own their own homes (63.6 per cent) but the proportion living in the private rented sector is broadly average (11.2 per cent compared with 10.7 per cent of all BNG households). These differences may partly reflect the very high proportion of students amongst the Chinese population in the Newcastle BNG area, a population typically concentrated in the private rented sector (see table 10.9), compared with more Chinese family units in Gateshead.

The concentration of Chinese people in the private sector is reflected in their under-representation in the council housing sector where only 8.6 per cent of Chinese people were recorded by the Census as living in 2001 compared with 33.1 per cent of all BNG residents. There are a number of possible explanations for this. Firstly, Chinese people interviewed by the study team perceived that council housing tended to be available only on large, predominantly white estates, which they felt were unsafe places to live. Secondly, a Chinese community representative suggested that there was a widely held opinion within the Chinese community that they would not be eligible for council housing. As a result of these perceptions and attitudes towards council housing few were apparently making applications:

“There is a widespread perception that council housing is both unsuitable and not available to Chinese people. Long waiting lists and questions about their income put people off applying for council housing. Also, they think that they are not in ‘housing need’ as defined by the council, and would therefore not be eligible for social housing” (Chinese community representative).

The Census indicates that Chinese people in the Gateshead BNG area are more likely to access council housing (but less likely to live in other social housing) than those resident in the Newcastle BNG area but their representation in this sector is still far below average. In 2001 12.6 per cent of Chinese households in Gateshead were resident in the council housing sector compared with 7.7 per cent of Chinese households in the Newcastle BNG (and 33.1 per cent of the total BNG population). However, a relatively high proportion of the Newcastle BNG Chinese population were recorded by the Census as living in ‘other’ social housing while this was true of very few Chinese households in the Gateshead BNG area. Of the 972 Chinese people resident in the Newcastle BNG area 6.4 per cent were recorded as living in ‘other’ social rented accommodation (compared with 1.4 per cent of Chinese people in the Gateshead BNG area), representing approximately 62 people. The presence of a sheltered housing scheme for Chinese elders in Newcastle, comprising 20 flats accommodating between 20 and 40 people will account for many of these. This scheme was reported by local stakeholders, Chinese respondents and in the local evidence base to be very popular and in high demand amongst Chinese people (the Guinness Trust, 2004a).

The extent to which these tenure patterns reflect preferences and choices and the extent to which they reflect institutional barriers and other constraints is discussed further in Section 3.

According to the Census, Chinese people are significantly less likely to live in a house or bungalow (58.6 per cent of households) than all households in the BNG area (75.7 per cent). This is reflected in the relatively high proportion of Chinese households living in flats (30.8 percent compared to 21.5 of the general population in the BNG area) (see table 10.15). It is also notable that a very high proportion of Chinese people in the Newcastle BNG area live in communal establishments (12.9 per cent compared with 2.6 per cent of all BNG people and no Chinese people in the Gateshead BNG area). Again, this may include some student accommodation.

10.3.3. Housing conditions and suitability

Evidence from the Census suggests that many Chinese households in the BNG area are living in poor housing conditions and in properties which do not meet their needs. The proportion of Chinese households recorded as living in deprived housing situations (accommodation that is either overcrowded, or is a shared dwelling, or does not have sole use of a bath/shower and toilet, or has no central heating) in 2001, for example, was significantly higher than the proportion of all households in the BNG area (see table 10.16). Overcrowding appears to be a particular problem with over 30 per cent of Chinese households recorded by the Census as being overcrowded compared to 9 per cent of the wider BNG area (see Table 10.17). The situation was more acute in Newcastle where 32.3 per cent of Chinese households were living in overcrowded conditions compared with 22.4 per cent in the Gateshead BNG area.

Interestingly, the relatively poor housing conditions in which Chinese households are apparently living were not reflected in Chinese peoples' responses to the CRESR survey. For example, a clear majority of respondents (13 out of 15) reported being satisfied with their current accommodation, and most (9 out of 15) were also satisfied with the state of repair of their current accommodation. However, apparent high levels of satisfaction notwithstanding, when respondents were asked whether there were any changes that would improve their housing situation, over half (8 out of 15) reported that they would benefit from improvements (including repairs) to their properties.

Table 10.14: Housing Tenure

		Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment		Total number
Chinese	BNG	13.2	34.4	0.3	8.6	5.5	25.0	2.4	10.6		1,186
	Newcastle-BNG	14.4	28.0	0.0	7.7	6.4	28.1	2.5	12.9		972
	Gateshead-BNG	7.5	63.6	1.9	12.6	1.4	11.2	1.9	0.0		214
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>		<i>192,138</i>

Table 10.15: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
Chinese	BNG	58.6	30.8	0.0	0.0	10.6	1,192
	Newcastle-BNG	56.0	31.0	0.0	0.0	12.9	973
	Gateshead-BNG	70.3	29.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	219
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

Of the 8 respondents who were looking for improved conditions to their homes, 6 were renting from a social landlord. Other changes respondents felt were necessary to improve their current housing situation included a differently sized property, although this applied to just 3 respondents, a relatively small number if we consider the high levels of overcrowding apparently encountered by this population. On this issue, it is worth noting that several respondents were living in overcrowded conditions (i.e. according to the definition of overcrowded employed by the Census) but did not *perceive* themselves to be overcrowded. This raises the possibility that perceptions and expectations regarding acceptable space standards may be relatively low amongst some Chinese people. Any future research and analysis of this issue based upon *self-reported* overcrowding amongst Chinese people would therefore need to appreciate this fact.

Table 10.16: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Chinese	150	36.6	125	37.8	25	31.6
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 10.17: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Chinese	121	30.6	106	32.3	15	22.4
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

Nine of the 15 Chinese people interviewed expressed a desire to move house in the next two years, if they could. Of these, one quarter said they wanted to move in order to 'escape poor living conditions' and 25 per cent said they wanted to 'move to a different neighbourhood', although this only represents a couple of individuals in each case. A desire to change tenure, have a larger garden, and move street were also reasons provided by respondents for wanting to move house but only by one person in each case.

The respondent who wanted to change the tenure of her current home raises an interesting issue. She explained that she didn't "*want the responsibility of home-ownership and repairs any more. An old house is a burden*". Thus, in some cases, home ownership is far from being a tenure of choice and aspiration, as is often assumed. Rather, where households have limited financial means and cannot afford repairs and maintenance, owner occupation can represent poor living conditions.

10.4. Neighbourhood situations and experiences

One-third of the Chinese respondents surveyed by the study team in Newcastle were living in Walker Riverside (5 people) and a further 4 were resident in Arthur's Hill. Chinese people living in Elswick (2 people), Kenton (1 person), Fenham (1 person) Benwell (1 person) and Byker (1 person) were also interviewed.

Satisfaction levels regarding the neighbourhoods in which Chinese respondents were living was notably high. The survey revealed that the majority of Chinese respondents were satisfied (7 out of 15) or fairly satisfied (6 people) with their current neighbourhood. Given the diversity of areas in which the Chinese respondents lived, this is an interesting finding in itself. However, these neighbourhoods appeared to share some common characteristics which explained their appeal amongst respondents.

When asked what they most liked about their current neighbourhood, for example, 9 out of 15 respondents pointed to the convenience of the neighbourhood's location. Similarly, 6 out of 15 respondents cited the availability of public transport as one of three things they most liked

about their area, while two emphasised the advantage of living close to their place of work. Three respondents cited the friendliness of the neighbourhood and the sense of community as a particular positive aspect of the area (see table 10.18).

Table 10.18: What do you most like about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
Quality of and proximity to local services and facilities	9	60.0
Good transport / transport links to other areas	6	40.0
Security/personal safety	5	33.3
Friendliness/sense of community	3	20.0
Employment	2	13.3

n=15

Although general levels of neighbourhood satisfaction were high, when probed further Chinese respondents nonetheless articulated some very negative views and experiences of the areas in which they currently living (see table 10.19). The majority, for example, (10 out of 15) were concerned about their personal safety in the neighbourhood and anti-social behaviour such as *'teenagers in groups on the street'* and *'noisy people'* was a problem for just under half (7 out of 15 respondents). Environmental issues were cited by 4 respondents as one of three things they most disliked about their neighbourhood. On a more optimistic note, 3 respondents could not think of a single thing they disliked about their neighbourhood.

Table 10.19: What do you most dislike about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
Safety concerns	10	66.7
Environmental issues	4	26.7
Nothing	3	20.0
Housing and property	2	13.3
Racism/racial harassment	1	6.7
Quality of life	1	6.7

n=15

Racial harassment also emerged as a relatively common experience amongst Chinese respondents, one third of whom had experienced racial harassment in the last 12 months, mainly in the street and near to their homes. Verbal abuse was the most common form of harassment suffered by respondents, who reported encountering racist chanting and language. One explained for example that he was regularly the victim of *"verbal abuse, called 'Chinkie', 'Chinkie'"*. However, vandalism, door knocking and the hooting of car horns were also mentioned. Despite some respondents reporting regularly frequent experiences of harassment and abuse, all but one of those who had been harassed in the past 12 months had failed to report any incident to the police or any other agency. The reasons provided by respondents for this included:

- a lack of confidence in the ability of the police to resolve the problem
- limited proficiency in English language deterring people from approaching agencies to report racist incidents
- a perception that the problem was not serious enough – *'it was only children'* that were the perpetrators.

A further explanation for under-reporting of these racist incidents may lie in the way in which racial harassment was viewed and experienced by the Chinese respondents. There was a perception amongst half of the sample that racial harassment was *not* a serious problem in their areas. It should also be noted that interviewees were in many cases unsure whether the harassment (in particular, vandalism) they experienced was in fact racially motivated and so were reluctant to report it as such.

10.5. Housing Aspirations, Choices and Actions

Given the high proportion of survey respondents who reported being satisfied with their neighbourhood, it is not surprising that the majority (9 out of 15) wished to remain in their current area of residence. A further 4 expressed a desire to relocate to other areas of Newcastle and 2 were unsure about where they would like to move to.

Amongst those who expressed a desire to move to a different neighbourhood two wanted to move to the east of the city (Walker Riverside and Byker and Ouseburn), two to Jesmond and Gosforth respectively and one to near the city centre (i.e. the Brewery Site). Respondents were keen on Walker Riverside and Byker because they knew other Chinese people living there and Jesmond and Gosforth because they were 'good areas'. The Discovery Quarter was favoured because of its convenient location, near to services and facilities and Chinatown.

In addition when asked to reflect upon their *ideal* housing situation (property size, tenure, location and so on) only 3 out of 15 respondents who wished to move wanted to relocate to a new neighbourhood altogether. Amongst those who specified the neighbourhood in which their ideal house would be located Walker and Byker were cited by one person in each case, and other areas mentioned were Jesmond, Gosforth and the Discovery Quarter.

However, amongst those wanting to move, a number pointed to a series of factors preventing them from doing so. Financial considerations in particular emerged as a significant constraint on Chinese respondents' ability to move house with 5 respondents explaining that their financial circumstances were preventing them from doing so. Uncertainty about available opportunities and concerns about living in a different neighbourhood also emerged as constraints on Chinese households' mobility (see table 10.20).

Table 10.20: Factors preventing respondents from moving house

	Number	%
Financial circumstances / affordability concerns	5	50.0
Uncertainty about available opportunities / how to move	4	26.7
Concerns about living in a different neighbourhood	2	3.3
A lack of alternative or more suitable housing in the area	1	6.7
Lack of familiarity about other areas	1	6.7
Employment	1	6.7

n=10

The survey probed respondents' attitude towards tenure and their aspirations for the future in this regard. In the event of moving house the majority of respondents (9 out of 15) expressed a desire to own their own property outright, and just under half said they would consider buying a property with a mortgage. The majority also expressed a willingness to consider renting both furnished or unfurnished accommodation from Your Homes Newcastle (9 and 10 out of 15 respectively) and a similar proportion said they would consider renting their next home from a housing association, suggesting relatively positive attitudes towards social housing amongst the Chinese population. This is of interest if we consider that Chinese people in Newcastle (where all the CRESR survey respondents were living) were recorded by the Census as being significantly under-represented in the council housing sector. Although private renting was relatively unpopular compared with other tenures, one third of respondents did say they would consider renting their next home from a private landlord. Anecdotally, private renting is thought to be too expensive and therefore a 'non-option' by many of the respondents.

10.6. Neighbourhood Attitudes and Preferences

The survey questioned Chinese respondents about their opinions of various locations in the BNG area, about whether they would consider moving to any of these neighbourhoods, and whether anything was deterring them from doing so. They were also asked about the potential of BNG's strategic commissions within these locations to impact upon their willingness to consider living in these areas. The areas (all in Newcastle) were:

- Benwell and Scotswood
- Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill
- Discovery Quarter
- Walker Riverside
- Byker and Ouseburn

The results are presented in the series of tables at the end of this section and summarised in Table 10.21.

Table 10.21: Newcastle

Would you consider living in...?	Yes	No	Not sure	Why not? (most popular responses)
Byker and Ouseburn	8	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of / too far from facilities & community
Walker Riverside	7	5	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of / too far from facilities & community • Social / neighbourhood problems
Benwell and Scotswood	3	9	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social / Neighbourhood problems
The Discovery Quarter	9	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues raised by respondents to explain their reluctance to live in this area
Elswick / Arthurs Hill	5	7	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social / Neighbourhood problems

Respondents were also asked for their views on a range of 'hypothetical' interventions and developments in order to ascertain whether there are activities not currently planned in the BNG area which might encourage Chinese households to take up the new opportunities arising as a result of BNG activities. The results are presented in Table 10.22 and show that in Newcastle the most common responses focused on information sharing about the new interventions and the specific locations in which they were located. It was important for the Chinese respondents that all information was in Cantonese and hence accessible to them. Respondents were also enthusiastic about other activities such as guided tours of areas and involvement in local planning consultation.

Table 10.22: Proportion of respondents who said the following activities would make them more likely to take up opportunities in the locations where BNG interventions are focused

	Yes	No	Don't know
Marketing/information sharing	12	3	0
Guided tours of the area and development	12	3	0
Information on local services, resources, transport connections	12	3	0
Community involvement in planning for the area	9	5	1
Culturally sensitive design features	6	4	4
Properties for larger families	5	8	2
Opportunities to own your own home	6	7	2
Opportunities to rent from a HA	6	4	5
Opportunities for friends/family to move together into a new area	9	4	2
Help to settle in a new area	9	4	2
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups in the area	5	4	6
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	9	3	3
Improved safety and security	8	4	3
Improved public transport	11	4	0
Job opportunities	7	6	2
Improvements in local schools	9	5	1

Tables detailing respondents' attitudes towards the locations in which BNG strategic commissions are being actioned

BYKER OUSEBURN	
Popularity	Byker and Ouseburn were relatively popular amongst Chinese respondents with over half saying they would consider moving to the area. Many respondents were not at all familiar with Byker Ouseburn but their perception and opinion of the area was nonetheless positive, suggesting that its reputation amongst the Chinese community is generally favourable. Two respondents who were specific about where in the area they would consider living mentioned Grace Street and Raby Street as particularly good locations in which to live.
Deterrent	A third of respondents (5 out of 15) said they would not consider living in Byker Ouseburn under any circumstances. The main factors deterring respondents from doing so were the social and neighbourhood problems they perceived to be prevalent in the area (of concern to 2 out of 5 respondents). Personal safety fears were also mentioned by two Chinese respondents to explain their reluctance to move to Byker Ouseburn.
Changing Attitudes	N/A

Walker Riverside	
Popularity	The relative popularity of the East End of Newcastle with Chinese respondents is suggested by their attitudes towards Walker Riverside. Just under half of respondents (7 out of 15) reported that they would consider living or staying in this area, with 3 saying they would locate anywhere within the general area. Two respondents were more specific, citing ' <i>near the river</i> ' and ' <i>near the primary school</i> ' respectively, as their preferred location within Walker Riverside.
Deterrent	<p>Amongst those respondents who reported that they would not consider living in Walker Riverside, a quarter cited social/neighbourhood problems as a key reason for not doing so.</p> <p><i>"Security is not very good, for example crime".</i></p> <p><i>"It's complicated in terms of the people"</i></p> <p>For at least one respondent, their negative views of Walker Riverside were based on first-hand experience:</p> <p><i>"[I] used to live in Walker and had a bad experience there".</i></p> <p>The location of Walker Riverside was also an issue: one respondent suggested it was too far from community facilities and another cited the lack of a decent bus service from the city centre, particularly late at night, as a problem.</p>
Changing Attitudes	N/A

Benwell and Scotswood	
Popularity	Benwell and Scotswood emerged as the most unpopular area amongst Chinese respondents with only a very small minority (3 out of 15) expressing an interest in living there. Over half of respondents ruled out the area altogether and a further 4 out of 15 were undecided. Of the three respondents who said they would consider living in Benwell and Scotswood, 'Old Benwell', 'Benwell', and the 'Expo Site' were mentioned as particular locations in which they would consider living.
Deterrent	<p>Respondents pointed to a series of reasons why they were reluctant to move to Benwell and Scotswood. One third (5 out of 15) cited neighbourhood problems and 4 raised concerns about safety in the area as factors deterring them from moving to the area. Indeed, crime and anti-social behaviour (perpetrated by young people in particular) were the main reasons provided by Chinese people to explain their reluctance to move to Benwell and Scotswood.</p> <p>Many were of the general opinion that Benwell and Scotswood has a poor reputation although interestingly, few had first-hand experience of the area. rather, they were making judgements based on hearsay and on the views of family and friends.</p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>The provision of more social housing emerged as the improvement most likely to attract Chinese respondents to Benwell and Scotswood: 7 out of 15 suggested that this would increase the likelihood that they would consider moving to the area. The provision of family housing and the demolition of 'poorer quality/less popular housing' (and its replacement by new housing) appealed to 4 respondents. However, 'greater regulation of private landlords' and 'work to improve the reputation of the area' appeared to have little impact or relevance to Chinese respondents with only 3 suggesting that these initiatives would encourage them to consider moving to the Benwell and Scotswood.</p> <p>However, the majority of respondents felt that any property-based or environmental/aesthetic changes would not be relevant to, or begin to address, what they saw as the main problems facing this neighbourhood, i.e. social/neighbourhood problems.</p> <p>Respondents made their own suggestions for ways in which the area could be improved. The provision of a better bus service and more facilities for young people were two changes suggested which respondents reported would encourage them to consider living in the area.</p>

Discovery Quarter	
Popularity	<p>The Discovery Quarter was the most popular of the BNG areas discussed with respondents. It was considered to be a very good neighbourhood with 9 of the 15 Chinese respondents suggesting they would consider living there. Of those, the majority reported being happy to live anywhere within the vicinity of the Brewery Site. The appeal of the area stemmed primarily from its close proximity to the city centre and, most crucially, to Chinatown. The following is the full list of attributes of the neighbourhood which respondents pointed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to Chinatown (5 respondents) • Walking distance to shops (3) • Easy access to town (3) • Near facilities such as college and hospital (1) • Good public transport (3) <p>A general indication of its popularity amongst Chinese interviewees was that no respondent expressing a willingness to move to the area could name any part of it that they would avoid living in. Many of the benefits of living close to the city centre, (including some that may not be regarded as favourable by other groups) such as '<i>lots of people</i>' and many shops were strong selling points for the Chinese respondents.</p> <p><i>"So convenient for shopping for Chinese food"</i></p> <p><i>"Everything in walking distance. This is important when too old to drive"</i></p>
Deterrent	<p>Of the 5 respondents reporting that they would not consider living in the Discovery Quarter, 2 cited social and neighbourhood problems as the reason for this view. Other reasons provided were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal safety fears (1) • Environmental concerns (1) • Lack of/too far from facilities and community (1)
Changing Attitudes	N/A

Elswick and Arthur's Hill	
Popularity	<p>One third of the Chinese people interviewed (5 out of 15) said they would consider living (or staying) in Elswick or Arthurs Hill and perceptions of this area were generally more positive than towards Benwell or Scotswood. This partly reflects that many respondents were already resident in and around Arthur's Hill and were satisfied with the area.</p> <p>Amongst those who expressed a willingness to move to (or stay within) Elswick and Arthur's Hill, there was a general vagueness about their more specific location preferences. Thus two respondents said they would live '<i>Anywhere there</i>' and '<i>just in the general area</i>', although another did express a preference for Tamworth Road. However, knowledge of Elswick and Arthur's Hill amongst Chinese people not currently resident there was limited with few respondents able to identify specific localities in which they would or would not live.</p>
Deterrent	<p>Lack of knowledge and experience of Elswick and Arthur's Hill emerged as a key factor influencing respondents' reluctant to move to the area, with just under a third explaining that their unfamiliarity with the area deterring them from considering moving there.</p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>Interviewees were asked about proposed improvements in Elswick and Arthur's Hill and whether these opportunities would influence their likelihood of considering the area as a place to live. Seven of the Chinese people interviewed said there was no improvement which would make them more likely to consider moving to Elswick or Arthur's Hill.</p> <p>However, one third of the sample suggested that the replacement of old houses with newly built properties would increase the willingness to consider moving to Elswick. Just over a quarter of respondents favoured the refurbishment of selected properties and twenty per cent reported that greater regulation of landlords in the private sector would encourage them to consider the area as a place to live.</p> <p>Over half of those interviewed also suggested they would consider moving to Loadman Street and Westmoreland Road if new houses were built there. The convenience of the location was its biggest selling point and it's proximity to the river was also a reason for moving there:</p> <p><i>"It's convenient – within walking distance of town".</i></p> <p><i>"It's easy to get to"</i></p> <p>Non-property related improvements also emerged as of importance to Chinese respondents. When asked whether there were any improvements which might encourage them to move to Elswick and Arthur's Hill, one third of the sample suggested that improved facilities such as shops and medical services would do so. Increased provision of leisure and sports facilities, more open spaces and play areas, as well as environmental improvements were also suggested as improvements which might increase respondents' willingness to move to the area.</p>

New Immigrant Residential Situations and Experiences

11.1. Introduction

For the purposes of this study, 'new immigrants' were defined as those who had lived in the UK for seven years or less. This profile of new immigrants in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) area draws on information and evidence from three key data sources:

- face-to-face interviews with 35 new immigrants, most of whom were resident in the BNG area, but three of whom lived just outside the BNG border. Of the 35 new immigrants interviewed, 21 lived in Newcastle and 14 in Gateshead. Respondents from a wide range of ethnic and national groups were interviewed. For the purposes of this report however, new immigrants are categorised into ethnic groupings as set out in Table 11.1 below. Hence, respondents were Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, Eritrean, Norwegian and Persian. Respondents from other countries in Europe, Africa and Asia were also interviewed: the 'Eastern European' category is made up of those from the Czech Republic (6) and Slovakia (1). 'Chinese' respondents were those from China (4) and Hong Kong (2). The 'African' ethnic grouping includes those who identified themselves as 'Black African' (1) and 'African' (1), and the 'Kurdish' ethnic grouping comprises one respondent who identified themselves as an 'Iraqi Kurd', and one respondent from Kurdistan. Nine of the 35 respondents were in the UK on a marriage visa or as a dependent child. Respondents from the Czech Republic and Slovakia (6) were A8 nationals and hence not subject to immigration control. All respondents (six male and 25 female) were between 16 and 64 years old. The majority (27 out of 35) were married or in long-term relationships.
- four focus groups with new immigrants in Newcastle and Gateshead. Two focus groups were held in Newcastle, one with people from the Czech Republic and one with people from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In Gateshead two focus groups were held with new immigrants from Southern Africa, which included people from the Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- eight telephone interviews with stakeholders in the BNG area working with or representing new immigrant populations. Interviews were conducted with a housing association support manager, officers from voluntary and statutory organisations with responsibility for refugees and asylum seekers (3), two immigrant community project workers, one tenants' representative, and an Asian women's support manager. Face to face interviews and meetings were also held with a wide range of stakeholders and community representatives all of whom were asked for insights regarding new immigrants in the BNG area.

Table 11.1: Ethnicity of new immigrant respondents

	Number
Eastern European	7
Chinese	6
Bangladeshi	5
Pakistani	4
Eritrean	4
Indian	2
African	2
Kurdish	2
Jewish	1
Persian	1
Norwegian	1
Total	35

There is no reliable locally or nationally generated enumeration of the new immigrant population and the data required to produce population estimates are not available. Little is known, therefore, about populations moving to the BNG area in more recent years, such as groups arriving into Newcastle and Gateshead as asylum seekers following the introduction of dispersal in 2001, or arriving from accession states following EU enlargement in 2004. The following insights can, however, be gleaned about the size and profile of the new immigrant population in the BNG area from the local evidence base and from the perceptions of stakeholders working within the area:

- by the end of 2003, more than 2000 asylum seekers had been dispersed to Newcastle and Gateshead, representing 40 per cent of all asylum seekers dispersed to the North East of England (Community Safety Research Unit, 2004)
- by September 2003 Newcastle had accommodated more dispersed asylum seekers than any other town or city in the North East of England - a total of 1,640 and nearly twice as many as Sunderland, which has accepted the second highest number of dispersed asylum seekers (Community Safety Research Unit, 2004), and approximately one third of the region's asylum seeking population
- by March 2003 approximately 1,000 asylum seekers had reportedly arrived into Gateshead (Gateshead Council, 2003), although another source places this figure at 495 by September 2003 (Community Safety Research Unit, 2004). Whatever the precise figure, the impact of dispersal on the size and profile of the relatively small local minority ethnic population is well illustrated by figures from the Gateshead Move-On Team, which has worked with 250 individuals, representing 154 households, since its inception in 2003 (Gateshead Move-On Service, 2006)
- Iranian asylum seekers were reported to represent the largest single ethnic or national group dispersed to the North East of England by the NASS programme by the end of 2004, and the Newcastle Asylum Seekers Unit reported supporting more people from Iran than from any other single national group, closely followed by people from Iraq and Congo (Community Safety Research Unit, 2004)
- local council officers in Gateshead pointed to relatively large Iranian and Iraqi communities, as well as Portuguese speaking African communities, while the groups most commonly assisted by the Gateshead Move-on Team have been from Congo, Iraq, Angola and Iran (Gateshead Move-On Service, 2006).
- according to asylum team officers and neighbourhood officers in Gateshead, asylum seeker dispersal has dramatically diversified the local minority ethnic population in the Town. Statistics provided by the Gateshead Move-On Service, which works with people who have received a positive decision and want to remain in Gateshead, for example, suggests the presence of at least 20 new national and ethnic groups (including people from Iraq, Iran, Cameroon, Sudan, Kyrgyzstan, Guatemala, Uganda and Afghanistan) which previously had little or no presence in the Town (Gateshead Move-On Service, 2006):

- a total of 12,450 workers have registered in the North East since EU enlargement according to one source (Newcastle City Council, 2006), with another source placing this figure at 30,255 registered workers between May 2004 and December 2005 (Home Office, DWP, HM Revenue and Customs and the ODPM, 2006). It is not known how many of these people have remained in Newcastle or Gateshead and how many moved elsewhere or returned to their country of origin. Local officers interviewed by the research team did report a perception, however, that EU enlargement has served to increase in the size and diversity of the local minority ethnic population in the BNG area.
- the highest proportion of applicants to the Workers Registration Scheme from EU accession states *nationally* are from Poland (Home Office, DWP, HM Revenue and Customs and the ODPM, 2006), chiming with the perception of local council officers in Gateshead that there has been a recent influx of Polish households arriving in the Town to work as bus drivers, having been recruited by local employers in their country or origin.

While some limited insights can be gleaned, then, regarding the size and ethnic or national profile of new immigrants virtually nothing is known about the profile characteristics of this population or their situations and experiences. This report represents a starting point in the evidence base about new immigrants in the BNG area. Although the sample size is not sufficient to permit analysis by ethnic group it does cast some light on the shared experiences of new immigrants regarding their housing and neighbourhood situations and experiences.

11.2. Profile Characteristics of New Immigrants Surveyed in the BNG Area

Although representative sampling techniques were not employed efforts were made to achieve a sample which reflected the diversity of the new immigrant population in the BNG area. In particular, efforts were made to include respondents of different ethnic and national groups, who had arrived into the UK for different reasons (to work, to join family members, to study, to seek asylum) and with different immigration status (refugee, asylum seeker, migrant workers, people arriving as dependents). Anecdotal evidence gleaned from community and tenant representatives and public and voluntary sector stakeholders regarding the make-up of the new immigrant population guided the selection of participants. In addition, the four focus groups specifically targeted groups reported by local stakeholders to be relatively new and growing populations in the BNG area.

The tables below show the profile characteristics of the new immigrants surveyed by the study team. It was not possible to use representative sampling, this only being possible when the characteristics of the total population are known. The profile of the CRESR survey sample cannot, therefore, be relied upon as indicative of the profile of the new immigrant population of the BNG area. Never the less, in the absence of robust and comprehensive data regarding the new immigrant population this information does provide some insight regarding new immigrant profile characteristics.

- the new immigrants surveyed had a relatively young age profile: almost half (17) were between 25-34 years old (see table 11.2). A sizeable number (10) were also aged between 35-44 years old. Three respondents were aged between 16-24, three were aged between 45-54 and there was a sole person aged between 55 and 64 years old. Of course, this sample is not necessarily representative, but further evidence of the young age profile of the new immigrant population is provided by a study of Eastern European economic migrants in Newcastle, which reported that the vast majority were aged between 25 and 35 years old (Anon, undated a). Southern African focus group respondents also reported that this community comprises mainly *“young families..... parents from 21 year olds to 35 or 40 year olds. We have very few people who are over 45 or 50”*
- Muslims comprised the largest religious grouping (14), followed by Christians (12). Other faiths represented were Hinduism (2) and Judaism (1). However, a significant minority (one in seven) professed to having no religious affiliation (see table 11.3).

- the range of languages (14 in total) spoken by respondents reflects their ethnic and national diversity. The Czech language was spoken by six of the respondents, Bengali was the first language of one in seven (5), and Cantonese was the first language of five respondents. Proficiency in the English language varied but fluency was rare with only 2 respondents reporting that they spoke English 'very well'. A further 10 respondents spoke English 'fairly well' but, when asked how well they spoke English, seven replied 'not at all' (see table 11.4)
- nine respondents had arrived in the country on a marriage visa or as a dependent (see table 11.5). The majority of these were from Bangladesh (5) or Pakistan (2). Refugees (8) and asylum seekers (3) were another distinct grouping, the majority of whom were from African countries. There were six nationals from the Accession 8 countries of the European Union (i.e. the Czech Republic and Slovakia). Of the remainder, two were on a work visa (both were Chinese) and one was on a tourist visa)
- almost one-third (14) of respondents had two children under 16 years of age living with them. Four immigrant households had one dependent child and a further 16 immigrants had no dependent children living with them (see table 11.6)
- the majority of new immigrants (27) were married or in long-term relationships (see table 11.7). However, it should be noted that not all were living with their respective spouses or long-term partners. This was particularly the case with refugees and asylum seekers, some of whom had partners still resident in their country of origin
- a total of ten respondents were in employment, two of whom were working full-time, four were working part-time, and a further four were self-employed (see table 11.8). Amongst those not economically active, just under one-third (10) were unemployed and available for work. Some fifteen per cent (5) were looking after the home, and a similar number were either part time or full time students (see table 11.9)
- just under half the sample had arrived in the UK between three and seven years ago, while seven had lived in the UK for between one and two years. Eight respondents were very recent arrivals and had been living in the UK for 12 months or less (see table 11.10).

Table 11.2: Age profile

		Age					Total
		16 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	
New Immigrant - Ethnic groupings	Bangladeshi	1	4	0	0	0	5
	Pakistani	0	2	2	0	0	4
	Indian	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Chinese	0	0	4	2	0	6
	Eastern European	2	3	1	0	1	7
	African	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Jewish	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Kurdish	0	1	1	0	0	2
	Persian	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Norwegian	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Eritrean	0	2	2	0	0	4
Total		3	17	10	3	1	34

Table 11.3: Religion

	Number	%
None	5	14.3
Christian	12	34.3
Buddhist	1	2.9
Hindu	2	5.7
Jewish	1	2.9

Muslim	14	40.0
Total	35	100.0

Table 11.4: First language

	Number	%
Czech	6	17.1
Bengali	5	14.3
Cantonese	5	14.3
Tigrinya	4	11.4
Urdu	3	8.6
Hindi	2	5.7
Kurdish	2	5.7
Punjabi	1	2.9
French	1	2.9
Mandarin	1	2.9
Slovakian	1	2.9
Arabic	1	2.9
Norwegian	1	2.9
Farsi	1	2.9
Total	34	97.1
Unclear	1	2.9
Total	35	100.0

Table 11.5: Current Immigration status

	Number	%
British citizen	1	3.1
Asylum seeker – awaiting decision	1	6.3
Asylum seeker – no other details provided	2	3.1
Refugee with indefinite leave to remain	1	15.6
Refugee – no other details provided	5	3.1
Indefinite Leave to Remain	2	6.3
On a marriage visa or as a dependent child	9	28.1
On a work permit	2	6.3
On a Tourist Visa	1	3.1
Not subject to immigration control	2	6.3
A8 national registered with the Workers Registration Scheme	1	3.1
A8 national (no other details provided)	5	15.6
Total	32	100.0

Table 11.6: Number of dependent children

		Number of children under 16 yrs of age who usually live with you				Total
		0	1	2	3	
New Immigrant - Ethnic groupings	Bangladeshi	3	1	1	0	5
	Pakistani	3	0	1	0	4
	Indian	0	1	1	0	2
	Chinese	3	0	2	1	6
	Eastern European	5	0	2	0	7
	African	0	1	1	0	2
	Jewish	0	0	1	0	1
	Kurdish	0	0	2	0	2
	Persian	0	0	1	0	1
	Norwegian	0	1	0	0	1
	Eritrean	2	0	2	0	4
Total		16	4	14	1	35

Table 11.7: Marital status of new immigrants surveyed

	Number	%
Married / in long-term relationship	27	77.1
Single	4	11.4
Divorced	1	2.9
Widowed	1	2.9
Other	1	2.9
Did not want to say	1	2.9
Total	35	100.0

Table 11.8: Employment Status

	Number	%
Part-time	4	40.0
Self-employed	4	40.0
Full-time	2	20.0
Total	10	100.0

Table 11.9: If not working what is your current situation?

	Number	%
Unemployed and available for work	10	40.0
Not allowed to work	3	12.0
Permanently sick or disabled	1	4.0
Full time student	1	4.0
Part time student	4	16.0
Looking after the home	5	20.0
Retired	1	4.0
Total	25	100.0

Table 11.10: Length of time in the UK

	Number	%
In the last 6 months	4	11.4
6 months - 1 year	4	11.4
1 - 2 years	7	20.0
2 - 3 years	5	14.3
3 - 5 years	9	25.7
5 - 7 years	6	17.1
Total	35	100.0

11.3. Residential Situations and Experiences

11.3.1. Residential Settlement

Table 11.11 shows that, in Gateshead, more new immigrants were interviewed in Bensham than in any other neighbourhood. Springwell (located just outside the BNG area) was home to three respondents and a further two were resident in Gateshead town centre. In Newcastle, the majority of respondents lived in Benwell (mainly Eastern Europeans) and Arthur's Hill, while a further two were resident in the East End of Newcastle, in Byker and Walker.

Table 11.11: Residential location of new immigrants surveyed

		Number
Gateshead	Bensham	8
	Springwell	3
	Bensham/Low Fell	1
	Town centre	2
Newcastle	Benwell	6
	North Kenton	1
	Fenham	2
	Elswick	3
	Arthurs Hill	5
	Byker	1
	Walker	1
	Cruddas Park	1
	Benwell/Elswick	1
	Total	35

The extent to which the residential settlement patterns of the new immigrants surveyed by the study team reflects the geographical distribution and settlement of the wider BNG new immigrant population is unclear. Very little information is available regarding the history of settlement of new immigrant populations in Newcastle or Gateshead, less still about their patterns of residential settlement. However, anecdotal information about the new immigrant population, interviews with key stakeholders and some locally available data suggests that new immigration is serving to reinforce patterns of settlement of the minority ethnic population in the BNG area, with many new immigrants drawn to locations in which the minority ethnic population are already clustered (which would include neighbourhoods such as Bensham, Arthurs Hill and North Benwell where the majority of CRESR Survey respondents were found to reside). For example, data from Newcastle City Council's refugee move-on support team reveal that Arthurs Hill is the most common destination for asylum seekers granted leave to remain and accommodated by Your Homes Newcastle (YHN).

There is also evidence, however, to suggest that the restricted choices of new immigrants, particularly asylum seekers and refugees, is resulting in growing minority ethnic populations

in parts of the Newcastle and Gateshead BNG area with little history of minority ethnic settlement. Cruddas Park, for example, is reported to be a relatively common destination for asylum seekers granted leave to remain in the UK and accommodated by YHN. It was also reported (by asylum team staff and housing managers, and corroborated by statistics provided by the Refugee Move-on Service) that people granted leave to remain in the UK, particularly those reliant on the social rented sector, are increasingly being accommodated in Walker and Byker, in the east of the Newcastle BNG area, both of which are areas with little history of minority ethnic settlement (YHN, 2005). Southern African Focus group participants in Gateshead, all of whom had entered the UK as asylum seekers or dependents, reported that this community was relatively dispersed, largely reflecting the location of their NASS accommodation or housing offered to them by the local authority.

Table 11.12: Where respondents lived prior to settlement in Newcastle or Gateshead

	Number	%
Abroad	22	62.9
London	3	8.6
Sunderland	3	8.6
Ashford	2	5.7
Gateshead	1	2.9
Cambridge	1	2.9
Luton	1	2.9
Middlesbrough	1	2.9
Hadfield	1	2.9
Total	35	100.0

Exploring where CRESR survey respondents lived prior to moving to the BNG area suggests that Newcastle or Gateshead represents the first UK place of settlement for the majority, with 22 out of 35 reporting that they had arrived in Newcastle or Gateshead directly from their country of origin (see table 11.12). However, a significant minority (13 respondents) had initially settled elsewhere in the UK and moved to Newcastle or Gateshead subsequently. Table 11.12 shows that respondents had moved from a relatively wide range of locations including Sunderland, Cambridge, London and Middlesbrough.

11.3.2. Housing Situations

The majority of respondents (21, representing 60 per cent of new immigrants) were accommodated in the social rented sector, all renting from Your Homes Newcastle or The Gateshead Housing Company (see table 11.13). A significant number (12, representing more than one third of new immigrants) were renting from a private landlord while very few were owner occupiers. This contrasts starkly with the sample of minority ethnic respondents longer-established in the BNG area. Only 6 out of 72 of *non* new immigrant respondents were renting from Your Homes Newcastle or The Gateshead Housing Company, although a further 13 were renting from a housing association, a sector from which new immigrants were completely absent. Over half of non new immigrants were owner occupiers and just 12 (or 16.7 per cent) were accommodated in the private rented sector.

Census data confirm the under-representation of most minority ethnic groups in social housing in the BNG area (see Chapter 3 of the first part of this report). The results of the CRESR survey would suggest, then, that the tenure profile of new immigrant households may diverge somewhat from this general picture.

Most new immigrant respondents were living in flats (see table 11.14) and were significantly more likely to do so than the total minority ethnic sample. Of all the minority ethnic people surveyed, only 7 were living in high rise flats and 5 of these were new immigrants. It is worth noting however, that Census data do indicate an over-representation of the minority ethnic population more widely in flatted accommodation. All but one of the 10 new immigrant respondents living in houses were resident in terraced accommodation.

Table 11.13: Tenure of current home

	Number	%
Renting from a private landlord	12	34.3
Renting from Your Homes Newcastle	9	25.7
Renting from The Gateshead Housing Company	6	17.1
Owner Occupied	5	14.3
NASS Accommodation	2	5.7
Bed and Breakfast Hotel	1	2.9
Total	35	100.0

Table 11.14: Property type of current home

	Number	%
Semi-detached house	1	2.9
Terraced house	9	25.7
High Rise Flat	5	14.3
Tyneside Flat	8	22.9
Other Flat	9	25.7
Other	3	8.6
Total	35	100.0

11.3.3.Housing Conditions and Suitability

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their current housing situation, focusing on how satisfied they were with their accommodation and whether their situation might be improved. The results suggest that overcrowding and poor property conditions were the two principle concerns amongst new immigrant respondents.

Table 11.15: Satisfaction with current accommodation

	Number	%
Very satisfied	9	26.5
Fairly satisfied	11	32.4
neither satisfied or dissatisfied	6	17.6
Fairly dissatisfied	3	8.8
Very dissatisfied	5	14.7
Total	34	100.0

Overall levels of housing satisfaction were slightly lower amongst new immigrant respondents than amongst the proportion of the sample that had been resident in the UK for longer than 6 years, with 58.9 per cent reporting satisfaction with their current accommodation (20 out of 35 respondents) compared with 63.4 per cent of non new immigrant respondents. Of these, nine out of 34 respondents were 'very satisfied' with their current situation, and 11 were 'fairly satisfied' (see table 11.15). However, a significant minority of respondents (one in seven) reported being very dissatisfied with their current accommodation and a further three said they were fairly dissatisfied (see table 11.15). Satisfaction levels were similar across all tenures with no notable differences between those in the private rented sector, in social housing and in owner-occupation.

Exploring respondents' housing situations and requirements in more detail revealed a number of specific ways in which their accommodation appeared to be inadequate. They were asked, for example, whether there was anything that would improve their current housing situation and respondents were able to point to a variety of ways in which their circumstances could be improved. It was notable that 'property-related' factors were more commonly cited than 'neighbourhood-related' factors. The following suggestions were made as to changes that

would most improve respondents' current housing situations, indicating that housing dissatisfaction may stem primarily from the condition and size of their homes:

- change in the property size (12 out of 29, or 41.4 per cent)
- improved house conditions, including repairs and improvements (12, or 41.4 per cent)
- neighbourhood issues (10, or 34.5 per cent)
- property with a garden (4, or 13.8 per cent)
- a move to a new house (4, or 13.8 per cent)
- adaptations, including the layout of the property (1, or 3.4 per cent)

Similarly, when respondents who expressed a desire to move house were asked to state the main reason for wanting to do so, the most commonly cited reasons were 'to move to a larger property (13 out of 27, or 48 per cent) and 'to escape poor living conditions' (11 out of 27, or 40.7 per cent).

When questioning focused specifically on respondents' views about the *condition* (state of repair) of their homes, relatively low levels of satisfaction emerged. In total, nearly 30 per cent of respondents (10 people) reported being dissatisfied with the state of repair of their home, the majority of whom were very dissatisfied (see table 11.16). Survey respondents were not asked for specific details regarding the condition of their homes but focus group participants, across the social and private rented sectors in both Gateshead and Newcastle, described a range of problems including leaking roofs, inadequate heating systems, and properties which were "*damp most of the time*".

Satisfaction levels with regards to repairs and property conditions did not vary significantly between tenures with private rented tenants only marginally more dissatisfied than social rented tenants. However, concerns about property conditions did appear to be greater in Newcastle than in Gateshead. While 9 out of 17 (52.9 per cent) Newcastle survey respondents suggested that better property conditions would most improve their current housing situation, only three Gateshead respondents (25 per cent) made the same suggestion.

Table 11.16: Satisfaction with state of repairs of your home

	Number	%
Very satisfied	8	23.5
Fairly satisfied	8	23.5
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	8	23.5
Fairly dissatisfied	3	8.8
Very dissatisfied	7	20.6
Total	34	100.0

It is perhaps not surprising that new immigrant respondents raised issues about the adequacy of the size of their homes in relation to their requirements if we consider that many were living in relatively large households. Table 11.18 shows that nearly 30 per cent of survey respondents were living in households comprising five or more members. Many of these were living in properties without sufficient bedrooms to accommodate the family, a problem also encountered by a number of focus group respondents. One Czech Roma focus group respondent living in the private rented sector, for example, explained that her family of six were living in a one bedroom flat. A Southern African focus group respondent living in the social rented sector described his current situation similarly.

Exploring the relationship of households members with each other also revealed that amongst the 32 respondents sharing their home with at least one other person, one quarter (8 people) were sharing with a member of their extended family. Most of those who shared their accommodation with family (immediate or extended) and/or friends reported doing so by choice (27 respondents) but in four instances this was not the case.

Table 11.17: Household Size

Number of people in h'hold	Number	%
1	3	8.6
2	7	20.0
3	5	14.3
4	9	25.7
5	5	14.3
6	2	5.7
7	3	8.6
9	1	2.9
Total	35	100.0

Other ways in which respondents' felt their homes were inadequate for their needs were also raised by focus group participants. In particular, some respondents reported that their properties were not suitable for families. This included families living in flats above the ground floor (mainly in the social rented sector), and those with no outside space in which their children could play. Other difficulties associated with living in flatted accommodation were also raised: notably amongst people with ill health and mobility problems who reported difficulties managing the stairs to their accommodation.

11.4. Neighbourhood Situations and Experiences

As discussed above, most of the new immigrants interviewed were living in Bensham in Gateshead, and in Benwell and Arthur's Hill in Newcastle, although some were resident in other locations within and bordering the BNG area. Respondents were asked to reflect on their experiences of life in their neighbourhood and on those aspects of the area about which they felt more and less positively. To this end they were asked a series of open-ended questions (the responses to which were coded subsequently) about the things they most liked and disliked about living in the area, and about those aspects of the neighbourhood they would miss if they moved elsewhere. The results provide a good indication of those aspects of local neighbourhoods likely to inform and influence new immigrant households' residential choices and levels of satisfaction.

Overall, new immigrant respondents were slightly less likely than the remainder of the full sample (i.e. those who were not new immigrants) to be satisfied with the neighbourhoods in which they lived. A total of 76 per cent of new immigrant respondents (26 out of 34 people) expressed satisfaction with their area compared with 83.9 per cent of the remainder of the survey sample (57 out of 68 respondents) and 11.7 per cent expressed dissatisfaction with their area (compared with 8.8 per cent of the remainder of the sample).

This general picture does, however, mask some stark geographical variations. In Newcastle overall satisfaction levels were very high, with nearly 90 per cent of respondents (18 out of 20) suggesting they were 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' with their neighbourhood. By contrast just 57 per cent of Gateshead respondents reported being very or fairly satisfied with the area in which they were living. While none of the Newcastle respondents suggested they were dissatisfied with their area, just under one third (4) of those living in Gateshead were either 'fairly dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' with where they were living. The higher satisfaction levels in Newcastle may in part reflect the greater diversity of the population there. New immigrants in Newcastle, for example, were more likely to be living in close proximity to other minority ethnic households – the more established minority ethnic communities as well as recent arrivals - than is the case in Gateshead.

Exploring those aspects of the local neighbourhood which respondents particularly disliked offers some indication of those factors influencing new immigrants' dissatisfaction with their local area. Concerns about safety in the area was mentioned by more survey respondents than any other issue (see table 11.18) and safety and security also emerged as a key concern amongst focus group participants across all ethnic groups. On a more positive note,

however, seven survey respondents could not think of anything they disliked about their neighbourhood.

Table 11.18: What do you most dislike about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
Safety concerns	14	40
Nothing	7	20
Environmental issues	4	11.4
Housing and property	4	11.4
Racism / Racial harassment	3	8.6
Lack of / poor facilities	3	8.6
Quality of life	3	8.6
Traffic issues	1	2.9

n=33

It was of interest that only three respondents citing racial harassment as something they particularly disliked about their experience of living in their neighbourhood because when questioned further it emerged that nearly one third had personally experienced racial harassment within the last twelve months. There was a notable difference between Newcastle and Gateshead in this regard: while over half (9 out of fourteen) of those living in Gateshead had experienced racial harassment, only a small number (2 out of 21) had done so in Newcastle. Verbal abuse was the main form of harassment suffered by respondents but this usually occurred in tandem with other forms of abuse. Bullying, aggressive behaviour, and 'shoving and spitting' were also reported. Respondents had been victims of racial incidents near their homes and in the wider area. Of the eleven respondents who had suffered racial harassment most (8) had reported such incidents to the authorities and, more specifically, to the police (7). However, levels of satisfaction with the way in which their complaint had been dealt with varied from 'very satisfied' (2) to 'very dissatisfied' (2).

Perceptions about the prevalence and seriousness of racial harassment in the local neighbourhood differed somewhat between Newcastle and Gateshead respondents. The majority of Gateshead respondents (8 out of 14) thought that racial harassment was a *serious* problem in their area. In Newcastle, in contrast, racial harassment was thought to be much less of an issue with just four (out of the 18 who responded) expressing the view that it was a serious problem, and eight reporting that it was a problem, but not a serious one. This is not to say that racial harassment was not an issue in Newcastle. Czech Roma focus group participants living in Newcastle recounted stories of being physically attacked and having their windows broken while a Congolese focus group respondent described how he was 'stoned' and verbally abused. Similarly, one man, living in Gateshead in an area with very few minority ethnic households reported that his children has suffered such extreme harassment that he no longer feels able to let them play outside. He explained:

"I can't allow them to play outside, I won't let them because if they are outside on their own anything can happen.....if they are at school that's where they play outside. From school they come inside, that's it... that's a terrible situation, children should be allowed to play outside, they should have that enjoyment, but I can't [allow it]" (Male Southern African focus group participant).

Refugee respondents who had been provided with accommodation in predominantly white estates (either as asylum seekers in NASS accommodation or in social housing once awarded leave to remain) talked at some length about the harassment they and other members of their community had suffered from other residents. Southern African focus group participants raised an interesting point with regard to this issue, suggesting that it was often poverty, more so than ethnicity, which underpinned their harassment by local residents in these neighbourhoods. They expressed the view that in neighbourhoods where many of the households are experiencing deprivation and where unemployment is commonplace it is no surprise that existing residents resent newcomers, who they perceive to be unfairly accessing resources (benefits, housing and so on).

Despite slightly lower than average levels of neighbourhood satisfaction, the concerns raised by respondents about personal safety in their area, and the experiences of racial harassment they reported, many were able to highlight many positive aspects of life in the neighbourhood.

When asked to specify what they most liked about their neighbourhood, the quality of, and proximity to local services and facilities was cited by more respondents (18 out of 32) than any other aspect of the local area (see table 11.19). Cultural and religious facilities were especially important to Muslim and Czech Roma new immigrant respondents while proximity to the local mosque was important to the Pakistani and Bangladeshi respondents, as was having Asian food and clothes shops nearby. Access to a Czech Roma community centre strongly influenced the ways in which this group of Eastern Europeans viewed their local neighbourhood and was the focus of their comments regarding ways in which their neighbourhood could be improved:

"We want to get our space where we can build our culture....a place where we can go every Tuesday or Friday and socialise and talk to one another and keep up with one another, especially the kids....keep together otherwise we forget everything. That is important for us and the future." (Czech Roma Focus Group Participant)

However, the importance of having good quality generic local facilities was mentioned across all ethnic groups. Hence, respondents stressed the importance of having good local shops, leisure facilities (such as a swimming pool) and medical services such as doctors, health centres and hospitals.

Living close to friends and family members was also a key influence on respondents' views about, and satisfaction with their neighbourhood. This is not a surprising finding, given the feeling of security to be gained from living alongside people of the same ethnic or religious background, something likely to be of significant for those newly arrived in the UK. However, there were some differences between ethnic groups in this regard: Eastern Europeans were particularly likely to cite living close to friends and family as something they most liked about their neighbourhood whereas Chinese new immigrants were far less likely to do so. Transport also emerged as a significant issue with 25 per cent of all respondents citing good local transport and links to other area as one of three things they most liked about their neighbourhood. Being able to access public transport, and a reliable and frequent bus service was mentioned mainly by those in employment and reliant on buses to get to work. However, this was also important for one Chinese mother, whose daughter attended school some distance from their home.

Table 11.19: What do you most like about your neighbourhood?

	Number	%
Quality of and proximity to local services and facilities	18	51.4
Friends and family nearby	13	37.1
Transport / Links to other areas	9	25.7
Friendliness / sense of community	8	22.9
Housing (e.g. type, size quality and condition)	4	11.4
Security / personal safety	4	11.4
Employment opportunities	2	5.7

n=32

11.5. Housing Preferences and Aspirations

Over three quarters of the new immigrants interviewed expressed a desire to move house in the next 2 years. We have already reported in section 2.3 that the most commonly cited reasons were in order to access larger accommodation and to escape poor conditions. The full list of reasons provided by respondents for wanting to move are:

- to move into a bigger property (13)
- to escape poor living conditions (11)
- to have a bigger garden (7)
- to change tenure (6)
- to be nearer services and facilities (4)

- to move nearer school (4)
- to be nearer employment (3)
- to move to a different street (2)

Despite a desire to move *house* the majority of new immigrants in Newcastle were committed to the *neighbourhoods* in which they lived. For example, 80.9 per cent (17 out of 21 respondents) wanted a move within the area they were currently living, while three reported wanting to move to a neighbouring area. Hence, despite some dissatisfaction with aspects of their accommodation and neighbourhood, new immigrant respondents nonetheless wanted to remain located within the areas with which they were already familiar. This was particularly true of Newcastle respondents, only one of whom wanted to move to another part of the city. The picture was less clear in Gateshead - although more than half (7 out of 13 respondents) in this area wanted to remain in their current neighbourhoods, a third did not know where they would like to move to.

When asked to reflect on their *ideal* housing situation the locations cited by some respondents closely matched the neighbourhoods in which they already lived. Thus, several Newcastle respondents cited Benwell, Ellesmere Road and Fenham - all areas in which they were already living. However, other areas outside the BNG area were also mentioned, including Heaton, Gosforth and Jesmond. The same was true of Gateshead respondents, where Whickham and Low Fell, both outside of the BNG area, were cited as desirable locations where respondents would like to live. This is perhaps not surprising if we consider that these areas were reported by local stakeholders to be two of the most popular neighbourhoods in Gateshead.

The survey probed respondents' attitude towards tenure and their aspirations in this regard for the future. In the event of moving house the majority of respondents (25 out of 35) expressed a desire to own their home outright and just under half said they would consider owning with a mortgage. As three quarters of respondents are currently in rented accommodation this would suggest that many new immigrants nonetheless have a positive attitude towards home ownership. Regarding general attitudes towards rented accommodation, the most popular choice was renting unfurnished housing from a social landlord, but more specifically from Your Homes Newcastle or The Gateshead Housing Company. Two thirds of the sample said they would consider unfurnished social housing and approximately half said they would consider furnished social housing. Renting from a housing association (furnished or unfurnished) was an option that just under 40 per cent of the sample (13 people) reported a willingness to consider. By contrast, just 20 per cent of the new immigrants interviewed expressed a willingness to rent their next home from a private landlord, the same proportion who said they would consider living in tied accommodation. The relative unpopularity of the private rented sector was closely associated with a general perception amongst new immigrant respondents that renting privately was less affordable, that housing conditions were poorer, and the repairs provided by private landlords less satisfactory than in the social rented sector. For example:

"if today I was in a council house I would save £2000 a year. I would pay £250, I'm paying £450." (Southern African male refugee, focus group participant)

"two bedroom, for example, £250, £350, nearly £400 and their service [from the private landlords] is very bad....when they need something fixing he say 'ok tomorrow', he never come back.....in many cases it [the property] is in very bad condition" (Czech Roma focus group participants, speaking through an interpreter)

When thinking about moving house, concerns about costs and affordability were an issue for many with over half of respondents (20 out of 35) reporting that cost concerns would prevent them from buying their own home with a mortgage. Interestingly, affordability did not emerge as a significant consideration when thinking specifically about renting from a private landlord, suggesting that reluctance to live in this sector may stem from perceptions about (and experience of) poor property conditions more so than cost.

Respondents who expressed a desire to move were asked whether anything was preventing them from doing so. The results are presented in table 11.20 and show that financial

considerations and a lack of suitable alternative accommodation emerged as the key barrier to household mobility amongst new immigrants. One focus group respondent suggested that the limited availability of suitable accommodation (in this case referring to adequately sized housing) was prompting many members of the Southern African community to leave Gateshead altogether in search of more appropriate housing.

There were no discernible differences between Newcastle and Gateshead, with survey respondents in both areas citing similar reasons for being unable to move. However, details of the 'other' factors preventing respondents from moving house are revealing. The bureaucracy of the council waiting list and schools were cited by 4 of the 6 respondents in Newcastle as their 'other' factor for not moving house, whereas these two reasons were not mentioned by any Gateshead respondent.

Table 11.20: Factors preventing respondents from moving house

	Number	%
Financial circumstances / affordability concerns	11	31.4
A lack of alternative or more suitable housing in the area	11	31.4
'Other'	11	31.4
Uncertainty about available opportunities / how to move	6	17.1
Don't want to move	6	17.1
Concerns about living in a different neighbourhood	3	8.6
Employment	1	2.9

Given that financial constraints emerged as the key barrier to household mobility it is not surprising that interest in various products and schemes designed to assist people with buying their own homes was relatively high. In general, knowledge about these various schemes was very limited but once the details had been outlined many respondents expressed a willingness to consider taking up these opportunities. Of those who expressed an opinion, discounted home ownership was the most appealing with 10 out of 32 respondents reporting that they would consider this product. A quarter of respondents were interested in shared ownership and a further 25 per cent were interested in mortgages which reflect specific religious/cultural beliefs. The lack of knowledge and awareness about these routes into owner occupation is reflected in the high percentage of 'don't knows' (listed in Table 11.21), suggesting that there is still much work to be done to promote these opportunities to new immigrant communities.

Table 11.21: Attitudes towards products and schemes aimed to assist people in buying their own homes

	Yes, would consider	No, would not consider	Don't know	Total number
Shared ownership	8	16	9	33
Mortgages - culture specific	8	14	11	33
Equity Share	3	7	9	19
Discounted home ownership	10	12	10	32
Self Build	8	16	6	30

11.6. Neighbourhood Attitudes and Preferences

Survey respondents in Newcastle, and focus group participants in Newcastle and Gateshead were questioned about their attitudes toward and perceptions regarding particular parts of the BNG area and their willingness to consider living in these locations. They were also asked about the potential of BNG's strategic commissions within these locations to impact upon their willingness to consider living in these areas. The discussion below details the comments of new immigrants regarding five specific locations in the Newcastle BNG area where interventions are focussed:

- Benwell and Scotswood
- Elswick, North Benwell and Arthurs Hill
- Discovery Quarter

- Walker Riverside
- Byker and Ouseburn

and four locations in the Gateshead BNG area:

- Dunston
- Teams
- Bensham and Saltwell
- Felling Bypass Corridor

Respondents views about each of these areas as places where they would consider living, the factors deterring them from doing so, and the extent to which proposed or ongoing BNG interventions in these neighbourhoods are likely to impact positively on their opinions and likelihood of moving into each area are detailed in the tables at the end of this section and summarised in table 11.22.

On the whole respondents were somewhat reluctant to consider moving to the locations in which BNG activities are proposed or ongoing, although the picture was far from clear cut. The most popular locations were those areas where new immigrants were already living, namely Bensham in Gateshead and Elswick, North Benwell and Arthur's Hill in Newcastle. However, the Discovery Quarter was also popular with almost half of respondents considering a move there given the right opportunity. In general there was far less interest in moving in Gateshead than in Newcastle.

Almost half of respondents had lived in the BNG area for less than two years and so a degree of reluctance to move from unfamiliar surroundings is hardly surprising. For many new immigrants the move to the UK has occurred in traumatic circumstances and a move from an initial place of residence may be too much to contemplate. Having the support of friends, family and building up social networks is often given greater priority than moving house or neighbourhood, regardless of the problems that may be encountered in current places of residence.

In addition, there was a lack of knowledge about some of the locations in which BNG strategic commissions are being actioned with some respondents expressing uncertainty about moving to areas they knew very little about. Several of the respondents were not familiar with any of the areas discussed with them other than their current area of residence, having never been to these places. However, a lack of direct experience was not always a barrier to forming an opinion of an area, opinions which were often informed by hearsay and the second-hand experience of friends and acquaintances.

Table 11.22. Respondents perceptions of different BNG areas

Would you consider living in....?	Yes	No	Not sure	Why not? (most popular responses)
Gateshead				
Dunston	3	9	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/neighbourhood problems • Lack of/too far from facilities
Teams	1	7	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal safety fears • Wrong location
Felling Bypass Corridor	2	8	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal safety fears • Property-related reasons • Social/neighbourhood problems
Bensham and Saltwell	13	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental (noise, congestion etc) • Personal safety
Newcastle				

Byker and Ouseburn	6	11	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undesirable neighbourhood • Too far from facilities & community • Personal safety fears
Walker Riverside	7	10	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of/too far from facilities & community
Benwell and Scotswood	9	7	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/neighbourhood problems • Don't know the area/can't comment
The Discovery Quarter	10	10	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far from community facilities • Social/neighbourhood problems
Elswick / Arthurs Hill	13	3	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrong area • Environmental/noise/congestion

Table 11.23: Proportion of respondents who said the following activities would make them more likely to take up opportunities in the locations where BNG interventions are focused

	Newcastle areas		Gateshead areas	
	Number	%	Number	%
Opportunities for friends/family to move together	17	48.5	9	64.2
Marketing or information sharing	17	48.5	6	42.8
Information about local services, resources and transport	17	48.5	5	35.7
The development of properties for larger families	13	37.1	4	28.5
Help to settle in a new areas	11	35.0	6	42.8
Efforts to foster good relations between different groups	10	28.5	7	50.0
Improved safety and security	14	40.0	8	57.1
Improved public transport	16	45.7	7	50.0
Job opportunities	15	42.8	7	50.0
Improvements in local schools	14	40.0	6	42.8
Opportunities to own your own home	8	22.8	7	50.0
Guided tours of the area and developments	14	40.0	7	50.0
Community involvement in planning for the area	15	42.8	7	50.0
Local housing/neighbourhood officers from your community	12	34.2	5	35.7
Culturally sensitive design features	14	40.0	4	28.5
Opportunities for renting from a Housing Association	8	22.8	3	21.4

Respondents were also asked for their views on a range of 'hypothetical' interventions and developments in order to ascertain whether there are activities not currently planned in the BNG area which might encourage new immigrant households to take up the new opportunities arising as a result of BNG activities in the nine locations listed at the start of this section. The results are presented in Table 11.23 and show that across Newcastle and Gateshead the most common response focused on providing opportunities for friends and family to move together (i.e. several households moving at the same time to the same location), although many other activities, including marketing and information about local services, and improved safety and security were also popular.

Tables detailing respondents attitudes towards the locations in which BNG strategic commissions are being actioned

BENWELL AND SCOTSWOOD	
Popularity	<p>There were mixed views about Benwell and Scotswood amongst new immigrant respondent living in Newcastle, just under half of whom (9 out of 21 respondents) indicated that they would consider living in the area. The main factor influencing their perception of the area and their willingness to consider moving there was safety and the environment. This is reflected in the following comments:</p> <p><i>'A street which is quiet, for example Canning Street or Crossfords Road' (Czech female, single, 17 yrs old)</i></p> <p><i>'If it was safe anywhere would be okay' (Norwegian female, married, 27 yrs old)</i></p> <p><i>'Anywhere there, near my four children, who live in Benwell' (Slovak, female, 55 yrs old).</i></p> <p>Benwell was popular with Eastern Europeans, who were already resident in the area and the majority of whom wished to stay there. Of the remaining, 7 new immigrants said they would not consider living in Benwell and Scotswood under any circumstances. Scotswood was less popular than Benwell and several people made the distinction between the two areas. Scotswood was thought to be too isolated and lacking in facilities, as encapsulated in the following description:</p> <p><i>It's isolated really, no school, no shops, and in some areas there is not even public transport and no lighting or anything' (Czech Roma focus group participant)</i></p> <p>Although generally unpopular, the physical environment in Scotswood was appreciated, including the green spaces and the views, so there is some scope for optimism here. Congolese participants, in particular, seemed to see potential in the area</p> <p><i>"Yeah because it's green....so nice views, so if the houses were improved over there I will like to live in Scotswood" (focus group participant)</i></p>
Deterrent	<p>The main factors deterring respondents from moving to Benwell and Scotswood were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of anti-social behaviour: youths on the streets, drink and drugs etc • Racism • Lack of services and facilities • Lack of public transport <p>There was a consensus that Scotswood in particular was an undesirable place to live because of social and neighbourhood problems. Proposed interventions in the housing market were not seen as addressing the underlying social problems in the area, as the following comment suggests:</p> <p><i>"It's not only about housing, it's about security. We give more consideration to the insecurity problem than to the housing" (Congolese focus group participant)</i></p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>Although the general attitude of all ethnic groups towards Scotswood and Benwell (to a lesser degree) was mixed some proposed improvements met with a good response. Given that there were concerns about social problems it was somewhat surprising that only 4 out of 21 responded positively to proposed measures to improve the reputation of the area. However, there was a much better response to property related interventions, with 8 out of 21 respondents suggesting that more family housing, and more social housing in particular (9 out of 21) would increase their willingness to move there.</p> <p><i>"If you start changing it and many people go there I believe the insecurity will decrease because many people will go there" (Congolese focus group participant).</i></p>

DISCOVERY QUARTER (INCLUDING THE BREWERY SITE)	
Popularity	<p>The Discovery Quarter was the second most popular area (after Elswick, North Benwell and Arthur's Hill) amongst new immigrants with 10 out of 21 expressing a willingness to consider living there.</p> <p>The area found most favour with Chinese new immigrants (4 out of 6), but was also popular with Bangladeshi (2 out of 5) respondents. The proximity to Chinatown was the main reason for the popularity of the Discovery Quarter amongst Chinese people, who were also enthusiastic about any new build housing interventions in the area.</p>
Deterrent	<p>Of the 10 respondents who said they would not consider living in the Discovery Quarter 4 cited the lack of facilities and the distant location (i.e. too far from their community) as their main reasons. Noise and congestion was also a deterrent for 2 further respondents.</p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>Several respondents explained their positive attitude towards the Discovery Quarter as an area in which to live. It's proximity to shops and facilities such as the local hospital was seen as a big advantage, with one third of respondents (7 out of 21) citing this as a factor which may encourage them to live there. In the same vein, proximity and access to public transport and employment opportunities were valued by 5 of the 21 respondents and was likely to increase their willingness to take up opportunities in the Discovery Quarter.</p>

ELSWICK/NORTH BENWELL/ARTHURS HILL	
Popularity	<p>North Benwell, Arthur's Hill and Elswick was the most popular of the areas discussed with a clear majority (13 out of 21) stating a willingness to live there. Some of these respondents (8) were already living in parts of the area and the remaining 5 respondents expressed a willingness to move there, given the right circumstances and opportunities.</p> <p>Elswick was particularly popular with Chinese new immigrants (4 out of 6 respondents) but was also popular with Congolese and Czech Roma respondents:</p> <p><i>'That area is really good, everybody really like it because there's a lot of people from Pakistan, from India, Asian people...we can all live together (Czech Roma focus group participant)</i></p> <p><i>'We would live there because many people of our community live there' (Congolese focus group participant)</i></p>
Deterrent	<p>Among those who expressed reluctance to live in Elswick, North Benwell, and Arthur's Hill there was no clear consensus as to the main factors deterring them from doing so. Interestingly, not one respondent mentioned social problems as a deterrent, whereas 2 people cited environmental concerns (noise, congestion and physical appearance), and one respondent cited property-related reasons.</p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>Given the property profile of this area, where terraced housing dominates, it is perhaps unsurprising that housing-related interventions held the most relevance and appeal. Just under half (9 out of 21) of respondents said that refurbishment of selected properties would increase their willingness to live in the area and the same proportion reported that the replacement of old properties with newly built properties would similarly impact positively on their desire to live in Elswick, North Benwell and Arthur's Hill.</p> <p>Greater regulation of private landlords and improvements to private rented housing was also popular with just over 20 per cent (5 out of 21) reporting that this intervention would increase their willingness to consider the area as a place to live. This may partly reflect that one-third of all new immigrant respondents (12 out of 35) already live in the private rented sector.</p> <p>When asked what additional improvements would encourage respondents to move to this area many focused on activities designed to improve the environment (more green spaces, cleaner streets). Such interventions were mentioned by 3 of the 21 respondents, and improving facilities in the neighbourhood were mentioned by a further two respondents.</p>

WALKER RIVERSIDE	
Popularity	<p>Few new immigrants live in the Eastern part of the Newcastle BNG area. However, a sizeable minority, i.e. 7 out of 21 respondents, expressed a willingness to consider this area in the future. A further 4 respondents said they were unsure about whether they would consider the area as a place to live, while 10 said they would not consider living there under any circumstances.</p> <p>Chinese new immigrants were most willing to consider Walker Riverside, with 5 out of 6 respondents suggesting they would consider moving to the area.</p>
Deterrent	<p>There were two main issues deterring respondents from moving to this Eastern part of the BNG area. Firstly, respondents reported that it was too far away from appropriate facilities and community networks, an opinion held by 3 of the 10 new immigrants interviewed. In a related point, there was a perception that public transport to this area was poor and too expensive. Secondly, the area was perceived as undesirable as a result of social problems such as anti-social behaviour. This factor was acting as a deterrent for a further 3 respondents.</p>
Changing Attitudes	N/A

BYKER OUSEBURN	
Popularity	<p>Byker and Ouseburn was the least popular part of the BNG areas in Newcastle amongst new immigrants. Just 6 out of 21 respondents expressed an interest in living in this area. A further 11 said they would not consider the area under any circumstances and a 4 were unsure. South Byker, in particular was thought to be unsafe.</p>
Deterrent	<p>Social and neighbourhood problems emerged as key concerns informing respondents reluctance to live in Byker and Ouseburn. In addition, personal safety fears was acting as a deterrent for a further 2 respondents. Again, the location of Byker and Ouseburn, in the East of the BNG area, was a concern, with many respondents reporting a desire to remain close to family and community elsewhere in Newcastle.</p>
Changing Attitudes	<p>Several respondents were keen on the housing related interventions proposed for Byker and reported that these improvements would increase their willingness to live in the area. As one focus group participant explained:</p> <p><i>'If the houses are refurbished in those areas and there is shops, we can live there' (Congolese focus group participant)</i></p>

DUNSTON	
Popularity	Dunston was not at all popular as a potential residential destination amongst new immigrants with just 3 out of 14 respondents expressing an interest in living in this part of the BNG area. The 3 respondents who said they would move to the area were currently living in Bensham, suggesting that they were willing to consider new areas within Gateshead.
Deterrent	The main barriers deterring respondents from considering moving to Dunston were social and neighbourhood problems, and the location of this area. Concerns about social problems such as anti-social behaviour were cited by 2 out of 14 respondents, fears for personal safety was emphasised by 1 respondent and a further 2 reported that racism and fears of racial harassment were deterring them from considering Dunston as an area in which to live.
Changing Attitudes	Only a very small number of respondents could think of any proposed interventions that would encourage them to consider Dunston as an area in which to live. Specifically, 2 out of 14 respondents suggested that tackling crime and anti-social behaviour may make them more likely to consider this area in the future. Environmental and social change, and housing-related reasons were cited by one respondent each as interventions that may make them more likely to consider living in Dunston. However, the overall perception of Dunston was poor, with 6 out of 14 respondents stating that nothing at all would encourage them to change their mind about the area.

TEAMS	
Popularity	At first glance the prospect for Teams in terms of attracting new immigrant households is not at all promising with only one respondent out of 14 expressing a willingness to considering moving to this area and 7 stating that they would not live there under any circumstances. However, 6 respondents were unsure, suggesting a certain ambiguity about Teams as a potential location of residence.
Deterrent	Teams was not regarded by new immigrants as a safe place to live and fears for personal safety were the main concern amongst respondents with 4 out of the 14 providing this as a reason why they would not consider moving to the area. Racial harassment in particular was considered to be significant. On a related point, social and neighbourhood problems were cited by 3 out of 14 respondents as the main reason why they would not consider living in Teams. The fact that 'it is not Bensham' was deterring a further two respondents from considering the area as a place to live.
Changing Attitudes	On the whole respondents were not inclined to shift their views about living in Teams. When presented with a list of BNG interventions that may be taking place, 8 out of 14 respondents said that absolutely nothing could be done that would make them consider this area. Of the remaining respondents, 2 cited the refurbishment of selected properties, and one greater regulation of private landlords as interventions most likely to encourage them to consider Teams as a area in which they would live.

FELLING BYPASS CORRIDOR	
Popularity	The Felling Bypass Corridor (FBC) was not popular amongst new immigrants, with only 2 reporting a willingness to live there. A further 8 respondents said they would not consider moving there under any circumstances. However, 4 more respondents were unsure about whether they would consider living in the FBC.
Deterrent	The main reason for the unpopularity of the FBC appears to be the social and neighbourhood problems perceived to be prevalent in the area. Hence, crime, anti-social behaviour and harassment were deterring 4 respondents from moving to the FBC.. Problems with housing, especially overcrowding, was also an issue with 3 out of 14 respondents suggesting that the lack of suitable accommodation in the area would deter them from moving there.
Changing Attitudes	In total 8 out of 14 respondents were adamant that nothing would influence them to move to this area. The response to the range of proposed interventions was not particularly encouraging as only a small number of respondents said any such measures would make any difference to their unwillingness to move to the FBC. Of these, 3 respondents suggested that tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and harassment would encourage them to consider the FBC as a place to live.

BENSHAM AND SALTWELL	
Popularity	Many new immigrants were already living in Bensham and Saltwell, and it emerged as a popular area with respondents across all ethnic groups. The majority of the Muslim respondents were living in this area, close to religious and community facilities, and the only mosque in Gateshead. It is no surprise then that Bensham is the most favoured of all the BNG areas discussed. Its popularity is confirmed by the fact that the majority (13 out of 14 respondents) want to remain in, or move to this area. Only one respondent did not want to live in this area.
Deterrent	The reluctance of the one respondent who said they did not want to live there stemmed from fears for their personal safety. Although Bensham and Saltwell was universally popular there were still a number of streets which respondents said they would avoid living on at all costs, primarily Hyde Park St./Rd and Durham Road.
Changing Attitudes	Many Gateshead respondents (9 out of 14) were already living in Bensham and Saltwell and so these individuals were asked whether the various interventions planned for the area would increase the likelihood of them <i>staying</i> in, rather than <i>moving to</i> , the area. The proposed property-related interventions appealed to both those who were already living in the area and those who were currently living elsewhere, although were more popular with those not currently resident in the neighbourhood. The conversion of Tyneside flats onto 6 bedroom properties (now completed) was popular with 8 out of 14 respondents, 6 of whom were living outside the area, reporting that this would stay in or move to the area. Similarly, the building of new houses appealed to 9 respondents out of 14 and 7 of these were not resident in Bensham and Saltwell. This suggests that these interventions are likely to attract more new immigrants (who are currently non-residents) into the area.

White Irish Residential Situations and Experiences

This profile of the White Irish population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) area is based upon data from the Census of population and comprises a series of tables presenting information about the size, socio-economic profile and housing situations of White Irish people. Key findings are highlighted in the box below.

- In 2001 there were 939 White Irish people living in the BNG area, representing just over 5 per cent of the BNG minority ethnic population and 0.5 per cent of the total BNG population
- The White Irish population in the BNG area had a relatively old age profile. Approximately one third of White Irish people were over the age of 60 (compared to 21 per cent of all people in the BNG area) and only 4 per cent were aged 16-24,(compared with almost 14 per cent of the total BNG population).
- Most commonly, White Irish people lived in single person, non-pensioner households (accounting for just under 30 per cent of White Irish households). This is broadly in line with the household profile of the total BNG population. However, there are some noticeable differences between the White Irish population and the total BNG population, namely in the proportion of households comprising couples with dependent children (7 per cent and 16 per cent for White Irish and all households respectively), and those containing lone parents (6.9 per cent and 13.0 per cent respectively).
- Reflecting the older age profile of the population, White Irish households were less likely to contain dependent children than the total BNG population (12 per cent and 27.9 per cent respectively).
- White Irish households were relatively well educated compared with the total BNG population: 29.4 per cent of the White Irish population had a higher level qualification in 2001 (degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, Qualified Nurse, Health Visitor etc) compared to just 12.8 per cent of the total BNG population.
- Levels of economic activity amongst White Irish households were slightly below average. In total, almost half of White Irish people (49.5 per cent) were economically *inactive* compared with 44.7 per cent of all BNG residents. This can be explained with reference to two particular factors. Firstly, there are proportionally more students in the White Irish population than in the total BNG population (13 per cent and 10.7 per cent respectively), and over 70 per cent of students are classed as economically inactive. Secondly, 18.7 per cent of the White Irish population was retired compared to 13.2 per cent of all people in the BNG area. Some differences between Newcastle and Gateshead are evident with regard to economic activity. For example, nearly half of White Irish people in the Gateshead BNG area (49.7 per cent) were in employment in 2001 compared with less than a third (31.8 per cent) of White Irish people in the Newcastle BNG area. White Irish people in the Gateshead BNG area were, however more likely to be permanently sick or disabled (17.1 per cent compared with 12.1 per cent of the White Irish population of the Newcastle BNG area and 11.3 per cent of the total BNG population)
- Perhaps reflecting high levels of educational attainment, White Irish people in the BNG area were significantly more likely to be employed in managerial and professional occupations than all BNG residents (41.4 per cent and 22.9 per cent respectively).
- Just over 40 per cent of Newcastle's White Irish population resided in the BNG area in 2001. Outside the BNG area the largest concentration of White Irish people was found in

Jesmond, home to approximately ten per cent of the White Irish population of the City. Within the Newcastle BNG area the White Irish population is dispersed, being relatively evenly distributed across the wards. However, the largest 'clusters' are found in Moorside, Wingrove and West City.

- In total, 43 per cent of the White Irish population of Gateshead lives in the BNG area. They are a relatively dispersed population, with some presence in all of Gateshead's wards. The largest concentration of White Irish people is found in Bensham, which is home to 7.1 per cent of Gateshead's White Irish population.
- The tenure profile of White Irish households in the BNG area differs in several respects from the tenure profile of the broader BNG population. Private renting was more common amongst White Irish people (19.6 per cent of the White Irish population rent their home from a private landlord compared to 10.7 per cent of the total BNG population), as was living in a communal establishment. These differences may partly reflect the slightly higher proportion of students within the White Irish population. And, whilst overall levels of owner occupation were broadly similar, White Irish people were more likely to own their homes *outright* than the total BNG population (18 per cent and 13.6 per cent respectively). Again, this is likely to reflect the older age profile of the population with more home owners having lived out the term of their mortgage.
- White Irish households were slightly more likely to live in flats, maisonettes or apartments than the total BNG population.
- White Irish households were slightly less likely to experience housing deprivation, (including overcrowding) than the total BNG population. Levels of housing deprivation were lowest in Gateshead where 9.5 per cent of White Irish households were recorded as living in housing deprivation in 2001 compared with 14.2 per cent of all BNG households.

Table 12.1: Number of people

	Number of people	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	939	5.3	0.5
Newcastle-BNG	704	5.0	0.6
Gateshead-BNG	235	6.4	0.4

Table 12.2: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
White Irish	BNG area	6.8	12.7	34.1	13.9	6.8	16.5	9.2	932
	Newcastle-BNG	6.1	15.6	31.6	13.5	7.1	16.7	9.5	694
	Gateshead-BNG	8.8	4.2	41.6	15.1	5.9	16.0	8.4	238
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 12.3: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
White Irish	BNG	18.3	29.1	9.1	7.1	18.5	2.6	4.3	11.0	508
	Newcastle-BNG	20.1	26.4	7.9	6.5	17.7	3.5	6.0	12.0	368
	Gateshead-BNG	13.6	36.4	12.1	8.6	20.7	0.0	0.0	8.6	140
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Table 12.4: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
White Irish	BNG	12.0	61
	Newcastle-BNG	11.7	43
	Gateshead-BNG	12.9	18
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Table 12.5: Qualifications²⁰

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
White Irish	BNG	40.3	30.3	29.4	779
	Newcastle-BNG	38.9	30.8	30.3	588
	Gateshead-BNG	44.5	28.8	26.7	191
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>47.9</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>138,873</i>

²⁰ The base is those people aged 16-74.

Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where:

- Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
- Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1). 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+ 'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
- Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
- Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

Table 12.6: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
White Irish	BNG	29.3	6.6	3.4	0.8	6.6	3.7	18.7	9.3	3.8	13.2	4.5	785
	Newcastle-BNG	26.5	5.3	3.5	1.0	6.6	4.8	19.4	11.6	4.0	12.1	5.3	604
	Gateshead-BNG	38.7	11.0	3.3	0.0	6.6	0.0	16.6	1.7	3.3	17.1	1.7	181
All people in the BNG area		31.9	10.7	3.0	0.9	5.8	3.0	13.2	7.7	7.6	11.3	4.9	138,930

Table 12.7: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long-term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
White Irish	BNG	14.2	27.2	8.9	4.1	9.2	14.6	14.2	7.6	4.8	2.7	437
	Newcastle-BNG	18.2	25.1	9.4	2.9	10.1	15.6	10.7	7.8	5.9	2.0	307
	Gateshead-BNG	4.6	32.3	7.7	6.9	6.9	12.3	22.3	6.9	2.3	4.6	130
All people in the BNG area		6.1	16.8	11.6	5.6	10.3	19.3	17.8	12.5	9.2	3.3	93,602

Table 12.8: Residential distribution of the Newcastle White Irish population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of White Irish population
Benwell	1.8
Blakelaw	1.9
Byker	2.7
Elswick	2.4
Fawdon	2.2
Fenham	4.0
Kenton	3.1
Monkchester	1.3
Moorside	6.3
Scotswood	1.8
Walker	1.2
Walkergate	2.1
West City	4.8
Wingrove	5.0
Castle	3.2
Dene	6.9
Denton	2.3
Grange	6.2
Heaton	8.5
Jesmond	10.0
Lemington	2.9
Newburn	1.3
Sandyford	7.7
South Gosforth	7.9
Westerhope	1.8
Woolsington	0.7
Newcastle	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>1,733</i>

Table 12.9: Residential distribution of the Gateshead White Irish population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of White Irish population
Bede	5.5
Bensham	7.1
Deckham	3.8
Dunston	3.3
Felling	6.0
Pelaw and Heworth	5.5
Saltwell	6.8
Teams	4.9
Birtley	3.5
Blaydon	3.5
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	5.1
Chowdene	3.7
Crawcrook and Greenside	4.4
High Fell	3.1
Lamesley	1.6
Leam	4.4

Low Fell	6.4
Ryton	5.1
Whickham North	4.0
Whickham South	4.4
Winlaton	3.1
Wrekendyke	4.6
Gateshead	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>546</i>

Table 12.10: Distribution of Newcastle BNG area's White Irish population across each BNG ward in Newcastle

Newcastle BNG wards	%
Benwell	4.5
Blakelaw	4.7
Byker	6.5
Elswick	6.0
Fawdon	5.4
Fenham	9.8
Kenton	7.7
Monkchester	3.1
Moorside	15.6
Scotswood	4.4
Walker	3.0
Walkergate	5.1
West City	11.9
Wingrove	12.2
Total Newcastle BNG	100.0

Table 12.11: Distribution of Gateshead BNG area's White Irish population across each BNG ward in Gateshead

Gateshead BNG wards	%
Bede	12.8
Bensham	16.6
Deckham	8.9
Dunston	7.7
Felling	14.0
Pelaw and Heworth	12.8
Saltwell	15.7
Teams	11.5
Total Gateshead BNG	100.0

Table 12.12: Housing Tenure

		Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
White Irish	BNG	18.0	24.3	0.9	26.2	4.6	19.6	1.7	4.7	955
	Newcastle-BNG	18.2	23.6	1.3	26.4	3.8	20.6	1.0	5.5	707
	Gateshead-BNG	17.7	26.6	0.0	25.8	6.9	16.9	3.6	2.4	248
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,138</i>

Table 12.13: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
White Irish	BNG	64.8	30.4	0.0	0.0	4.8	935
	Newcastle-BNG	65.1	28.9	0.0	0.0	6.0	702
	Gateshead-BNG	63.9	34.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	233
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

Table 12.14: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White Irish	58	11.0	44	11.6	14	9.5
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 12.15: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White Irish	47	8.6	38	9.7	9	5.8
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

'White Other' Residential Situations and Experiences

This profile of the 'White Other' population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) area is based upon data from the Census of population and comprises a series of tables presenting information about the size, socio-economic profile and housing situations of White Other people. Key findings are highlighted in the box below.

- There were 3798 'White Other' people living in the BNG area in 2001, representing over one fifth of the BNG minority ethnic population and 2 per cent of the total BNG population. The White Other population was proportionally larger in the Gateshead BNG area than in the Newcastle BNG area, where 44 per cent of the minority ethnic population defined themselves as White Other (compared with 15.87 per cent of the Newcastle BNG minority ethnic population). This is likely to include at least some of Gateshead's Orthodox Jewish community.
- White Other people formed the largest minority ethnic group in the Gateshead BNG area and the second largest (after Pakistani) in the Newcastle BNG area.
- In 2001, the White Other population of the BNG area had a relatively young age profile with almost 40 per cent aged 16-24, compared with only 13.8 per cent of the wider BNG population. Only 7.4 per cent of the White Other population was over 60 years old compared to 20.5 per cent of the BNG population.
- The household structure of White Other households in the BNG area differed somewhat from the wider BNG population in a number of ways: there were fewer single person households (38.5 per cent of White Other households in the BNG area compared with 48.5 per cent of the wider BNG population); a higher proportion were 'other' households (not single person, or one family households) (16.0 per cent compared to 7.5 per cent); and a higher proportion of households comprised couples with dependent children (21.3 per cent compared to 16.1 per cent).
- White Other households in Gateshead were particularly likely to comprise couples with dependent children (32.4 per cent compared with 16.1 per cent of White Other households in the across the BNG area). In total, 41.1 per cent of White Other households in the Gateshead BNG area contained dependent children.
- The 2001 Census shows striking differences between White Other households in the Newcastle BNG area compared with those in the Gateshead BNG area with regard to levels of educational attainment. In Gateshead, over half of the White Other population had no qualifications (or the level was unknown), while in Newcastle this applied to less than one quarter of White Other people. However, in both Newcastle and Gateshead, a higher proportion of White Other people had higher level qualifications than amongst the total BNG population (43.7 and 18.6 per cent of the White Other population of Newcastle and Gateshead compared with 2.8 per cent of the total population).
- There was a high proportion of students within the White Other populations of the Newcastle and Gateshead BNG areas in 2001 (46.5 and 56.9 per cent respectively compared with just over ten per cent of the total BNG population.). In Gateshead this is likely to include some of the city's Orthodox Jewish community, many of whom are reported to come to Gateshead to study in the internationally renowned Orthodox Jewish educational establishments there.

- Levels of economic *inactivity* were high amongst the BNG White Other population, partly reflecting the high number of White Other students in the area. Amongst those who are economically active, a relatively high proportion work in higher level managerial and professional occupations (16 per cent of the White Other people compared to 6.1 per cent of the wider BNG population)
- The White Other population in Newcastle was relatively dispersed across the city in 2001 although residential clusters can be identified within the BNG area, most notably in Moorside where 16.1 per cent of the White Other population reside. There are also significant concentrations of White Other people in wards outside the BNG area, however, particularly in Sandyford (10.8 per cent) and Jesmond (10.3 per cent), both of which are reported to accommodate a high proportion of students.
- In contrast, the White Other population of Gateshead was more heavily concentrated within the BNG area, which accommodates over 70 per cent of Gateshead's White Other population. The largest clusters of White Other people could be found in Bensham (41.7 per cent of the White Other population of Gateshead) and Saltwell (9.6 per cent).
- White Other households in the BNG area were under-presented in owner occupation in 2001: less than one quarter owned their own homes compared with 46.1 per cent of the total BNG population. Likewise, renting from the council was far less common amongst this population. Reflecting the large student population, most commonly, White Other households in the BNG area were living in a communal establishment, followed by private renting
- White Other households appear to be experiencing high levels of housing deprivation. In total, 22.7 per cent of the White Other households were recorded by the Census as living in deprived housing situations compared with 13.8 per cent of all households in the BNG area. This partly reflects high levels of overcrowding encountered by White Other households

Table 13.1: Size of the population

	Number of people	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	3798	21.5	2.0
Newcastle-BNG	2,190	15.7	1.7
Gateshead-BNG	1,608	43.9	2.5

Table 13.2: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
White Other	BNG area	15.1	39.5	33.6	4.4	1.8	3.1	2.5	3,792
	Newcastle-BNG	12.5	34.0	40.3	4.9	1.7	3.3	3.4	2,185
	Gateshead-BNG	18.5	47.1	24.6	3.7	1.9	2.9	1.3	1,607
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 13.3: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
White Other	BNG	29.4	354
	Newcastle-BNG	24.4	207
	Gateshead-BNG	41.4	147
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Table 13.4: Qualifications²¹

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
White Other	BNG	34.9	31.8	33.4	3,130
	Newcastle-BNG	23.7	32.6	43.7	1,844
	Gateshead-BNG	50.9	30.5	18.6	1,286
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>47.9</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>138,873</i>

²¹ The base is those people aged 16-74.

Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where:

- Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
- Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+ 'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
- Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
- Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

Table 13.5: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
White Other	BNG	6.9	31.6	3.0	21.3	16.2	4.1	0.8	16.0	1,205
	Newcastle-BNG	7.2	32.9	2.5	16.7	16.2	4.1	1.2	19.2	850
	Gateshead-BNG	6.2	28.5	4.2	32.4	16.1	4.2	0.0	8.5	355
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Table 13.6: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
White Other	BNG	16.6	6.1	2.5	1.4	4.1	5.1	3.3	45.8	5.0	3.8	6.3	3,123
	Newcastle-BNG	20.1	5.3	2.7	0.7	4.8	7.2	3.9	39.3	4.8	4.6	6.6	1,835
	Gateshead-BNG	11.7	7.1	2.1	2.5	3.2	1.9	2.5	55.0	5.4	2.8	5.8	1,288
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>31.9</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>138,930</i>

Table 13.7: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long- term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
White Other	BNG	16.0	19.8	9.4	7.2	6.3	11.3	9.6	20.4	17.9	2.6	1,410
	Newcastle-BNG	19.6	18.8	8.2	6.0	6.1	11.8	10.3	19.1	16.2	3.0	914
	Gateshead-BNG	9.5	21.6	11.5	9.3	6.7	10.3	8.5	22.8	21.0	1.8	496
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>6.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>93,602</i>

**Table 13.8: Residential distribution of the Newcastle White Other population, by Ward
(BNG wards shaded)**

Ward	% of White Other population
Benwell	1.5
Blakelaw	1.9
Byker	2.8
Elswick	3.0
Fawdon	1.5
Fenham	3.8
Kenton	3.0
Monkchester	1.0
Moorside	16.1
Scotswood	0.6
Walker	0.8
Walkergate	0.9
West City	4.3
Wingrove	5.6
Castle	2.3
Dene	5.8
Denton	1.1
Grange	5.0
Heaton	6.9
Jesmond	10.3
Lemington	1.0
Newburn	1.0
Sandyford	10.8
South Gosforth	6.6
Westerhope	1.3
Woolsington	1.3
Newcastle	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>4,692</i>

Table 13.9: Distribution of Newcastle BNG area's White Other population across each BNG ward in Newcastle

Newcastle BNG wards	%
Benwell	3.2
Blakelaw	4.0
Byker	6.1
Elswick	6.4
Fawdon	3.2
Fenham	8.2
Kenton	6.5
Monkchester	2.1
Moorside	34.6
Scotswood	1.2
Walker	1.6
Walkergate	1.8
West City	9.2
Wingrove	11.9
Total Newcastle BNG	100.0

Table 13.10: Residential distribution of the Gateshead White Other population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of White Other population
Bede	6.2
Bensham	41.7
Deckham	3.1
Dunston	2.9
Felling	2.1
Pelaw and Heworth	1.0
Saltwell	9.6
Teams	3.6
Birtley	0.8
Blaydon	1.8
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	3.1
Chowdene	1.8
Crawcrook and Greenside	2.6
High Fell	1.4
Lamesley	1.7
Leam	1.7
Low Fell	3.3
Ryton	3.1
Whickham North	2.4
Whickham South	2.5
Winlaton	2.2
Wrekendyke	1.5
Gateshead	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>2,292</i>

Table 13.11: Distribution of Gateshead BNG area's White Other population across each BNG ward in Gateshead

Gateshead BNG wards	%
Bede	8.9
Bensham	59.4
Deckham	4.4
Dunston	4.2
Felling	2.9
Pelaw and Heworth	1.4
Saltwell	13.6
Teams	5.2
Total Gateshead BNG	100.0

Table 13.12: Housing Tenure

		Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
White Other	BNG	8.2	15.9	0.3	13.6	7.1	25.1	4.5	25.3	3,797
	Newcastle-BNG	6.3	13.9	0.3	18.2	9.9	32.1	3.5	15.8	2,190
	Gateshead-BNG	10.8	18.6	0.4	7.2	3.3	15.5	6.0	38.2	1,607
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,138</i>

Table 13.13: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
White Other	BNG	43.9	30.1	0.2	0.6	25.2	3,808
	Newcastle-BNG	44.8	38.4	0.0	1.1	15.7	2,197
	Gateshead-BNG	42.8	18.8	0.4	0.0	38.1	1,611
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

Table 13.14: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White Other	277	22.7	216	25.6	61	16.4
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 13.15: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White Other	214	17.5	168	20.0	46	12.0
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

Mixed Heritage Residential Situations and Experiences

This profile of the 'Mixed Heritage' population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) area is based upon data from the Census of population and comprises a series of tables presenting information about the size, socio-economic profile and housing situations of Mixed Heritage people. Key findings are highlighted in the box below.

- In 2001 there were 1547 people of Mixed Heritage living in the BNG area. The Mixed Heritage ethnic groups together comprised approximately 1 per cent of the population of Newcastle, around 0.3 per cent of the population of Gateshead and 0.8 per cent of the BNG total population. The largest Mixed Heritage group in the BNG area is White & Asian, which represents 0.3 per cent of the total BNG population
- All Mixed Heritage groups have a relatively young age profile. For example, around 40 per cent of both the White & Asian and White & Black African populations were under 16 years of age in 2001, compared to 20.4 per cent of the all people in the BNG area. In fact, the vast majority of Mixed Heritage people were under the age of 50 (85.2 per cent of White and Black African, 97.7 of White & Black Caribbean, and 88.5 of White & Asian and Other Mixed respectively compared with 69.1 per cent of the total BNG population).
- The 2001 Census shows striking differences between the Mixed Heritage population and the total BNG population with regard to household structure. For example, over one third of White & Black Caribbean households were single person (not pensioner) households in 2001, compared to just 21.8 per cent of all BNG households. The proportion of White & Black Caribbean households comprising lone parents was also relatively high, being approximately equal to those comprised of couples (19.4 per cent). Over a quarter of White & Black African households were classed as 'other' households (i.e. neither one person nor one family households) and the White & Asian population in the BNG area also contained a relatively high number of households falling into this category (20.8 per cent compared with 7.5 per cent of all BNG households). Reflecting the young age profile of the Mixed Heritage population, relatively few households comprised pensioners (ranging from 3.4 per cent of White & Asian households to 9.4 per cent of White & Black Caribbean households compared with 16.7 per cent of all BNG households)
- In 2001 Mixed Heritage households were more likely to contain dependent children than all households in the BNG area. This was true across all Mixed Heritage groups with the exception of Other Mixed households. Again, this is likely to reflect the young age profile of these populations.
- The Census shows stark differences between Mixed Heritage groups with regard to levels of educational attainment. For example, 43 per cent of White & Black African people had higher level qualifications while this applied to just 12 per cent of the White & Black Caribbean population (compared with 12.8 per cent of the total BNG population). It is noteworthy that, with the exception of White and Black Caribbean people, all Mixed Heritage groups displayed higher than average levels of educational attainment yet were also more likely to be unemployed. In total, 6 per cent of the White & Black Caribbean population, 7 per cent of the White & Black African population, 9.6 per cent of the White & Asian population and 9.9 per cent of the Other Mixed people were unemployed in 2001 compared with 5.8 per cent of all people in the BNG area. The Mixed Heritage population also contains a relatively high proportion of Students. This is particularly true of the White and Black African, White and Asian and Other Mixed populations, 37.2 per

cent, 28.3 per cent and 35.7 per cent of whom were students in 2001 compared with 10.7 per cent of all people in the BNG area.

- In total 59.2 per cent of Newcastle's White & Black Caribbean population lived within the BNG area but there were also relatively sizeable clusters in Heaton and Sandyford, both located outside the BNG area. In Gateshead, the largest concentrations of White & Black Caribbean people were in Dunston and Felling, with 11.4 and 13.1 per cent of Gateshead's White & Black Caribbean population residing within these wards. These figures do, however, represent very small numbers of people.
- Over half the White & Black African population of Newcastle lived within the BNG area in 2001, primarily in the wards of Moorside, Wingrove and Fawdon (accommodating 15.8 per cent, 9.7 per cent and 7.7 per cent of Newcastle's White & Black African population respectively). The White & Black African population of Gateshead, 42 per cent of whom lived within the BNG area, was less dispersed. The largest White & Black African residential cluster in Gateshead was in Blaydon, located outwith the BNG boundary.
- The White & Asian population of Newcastle was relatively dispersed with 48.7 per cent residing in the BNG area. In Gateshead, the White & Asian population was also fairly dispersed, although approximately 10 per cent of White & Asian people lived in Saltwell.
- In Newcastle, the main residential clusters of Other Mixed people can be found in Moorside (within the BNG area) and Jesmond (outside the BNG area), each home to 11 per cent of Newcastle's Other Mixed population in 2001. In Gateshead, the Other Mixed population was relatively dispersed across the town.
- Levels of owner occupation were very low amongst the Mixed heritage population with White & Black African people the least likely to own their own homes (just 21.4 per cent of White & Black African people in the BNG area owned their own homes compared with 46.1 per cent of the total BNG population). With the exception of the White & Black Caribbean population, Mixed Heritage people were also under-represented in the council housing sector (but more likely to rent from other social landlords). Low levels of home ownership and renting from the council were reflected in the over-representation of Mixed Heritage people in the private rented sector.
- People of mixed heritage living in the BNG area were more likely than the total BNG population to reside in flats, maisonettes or apartments. In particular, 43.3 per cent of White & Black Africans lived in this type of accommodation compared with 21.5 per cent of all people in the BNG area.
- Compared with all households in the BNG area, Mixed heritage households were more likely to be suffering housing deprivation. This was particularly true of White & Black African households, 41.5 per cent of whom were recorded by the Census as living in housing deprivation compared with 13.8 per cent of all BNG households..

Table 14.1: Size of the population

	White & Black Caribbean	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	367	2.1	0.2
Newcastle-BNG	234	1.7	0.2
Gateshead-BNG	133	3.6	0.2

	White & Black African	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	254	1.4	0.1
Newcastle-BNG	221	1.6	0.2
Gateshead-BNG	33	0.9	0.1

	White & Asian	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	569	3.2	0.3
Newcastle-BNG	444	3.2	0.3
Gateshead-BNG	125	3.4	0.2

	Other Mixed	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	357	2.0	0.2
Newcastle-BNG	265	1.9	0.2
Gateshead-BNG	92	2.5	0.1

Table 14.2: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
White & Black Caribbean	BNG area	35.3	18.6	31.3	8.5	1.6	3.2	1.6	377
	Newcastle-BNG	33.1	21.6	30.9	9.3	1.3	2.5	1.3	236
	Gateshead-BNG	39.0	13.5	31.9	7.1	2.1	4.3	2.1	141
White & Black African	BNG area	40.4	17.3	40.0	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.0	255
	Newcastle-BNG	39.4	18.6	39.4	1.4	0.0	1.4	0.0	221
	Gateshead-BNG	47.1	8.8	44.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34
White & Asian	BNG area	39.9	22.5	33.3	1.6	0.5	1.1	1.1	564
	Newcastle-BNG	39.7	23.7	33.1	1.4	0.0	0.7	1.4	438
	Gateshead-BNG	40.5	18.3	34.1	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	126
Other mixed	BNG area	34.8	20.5	33.2	3.2	0.8	4.8	2.7	376
	Newcastle-BNG	35.6	24.5	32.4	1.1	1.1	4.3	1.1	278
	Gateshead-BNG	32.7	9.2	35.7	9.2	0.0	6.1	7.1	98
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 14.3: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
White & Black Caribbean	BNG	9.4	34.5	4.3	8.6	10.8	12.9	6.5	12.9	139
	Newcastle-BNG	7.1	39.3	3.6	10.7	14.3	7.1	7.1	10.7	84
	Gateshead-BNG	12.7	27.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	21.8	5.5	16.4	55
White & Black African	BNG	3.7	18.3	3.7	19.5	22.0	7.3	0.0	25.6	82
	Newcastle-BNG	4.1	12.3	4.1	21.9	20.5	8.2	0.0	28.8	73
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	9
White & Asian	BNG	3.4	28.1	1.7	20.8	11.8	13.5	0.0	20.8	178
	Newcastle-BNG	2.1	28.9	2.1	17.6	10.6	12.7	0.0	26.1	142
	Gateshead-BNG	8.3	25.0	0.0	33.3	16.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	36
Other mixed	BNG	7.5	37.7	0.0	12.3	11.3	11.3	8.5	11.3	106
	Newcastle-BNG	0.0	39.4	0.0	10.6	9.1	13.6	9.1	18.2	66
	Gateshead-BNG	20.0	35.0	0.0	15.0	15.0	7.5	7.5	0.0	40
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Table 14.4: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
White & Black Caribbean	BNG	28.1	39
	Newcastle-BNG	25.0	21
	Gateshead-BNG	32.7	18
White & Black African	BNG	34.1	28
	Newcastle-BNG	38.4	28
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	0
White & Asian	BNG	39.3	70
	Newcastle-BNG	36.6	52
	Gateshead-BNG	50.0	18
Other mixed	BNG	23.6	25
	Newcastle-BNG	24.2	16
	Gateshead-BNG	22.5	9
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Table 14.5: Qualifications²²

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
White & Black Caribbean	BNG	45.1	42.6	12.3	235
	Newcastle-BNG	46.2	42.4	11.4	158
	Gateshead-BNG	42.9	42.9	14.3	77
White & Black African	BNG	21.7	34.9	43.4	166
	Newcastle-BNG	20.8	35.4	43.8	144
	Gateshead-BNG	27.3	31.8	40.9	22
White & Asian	BNG	30.3	43.8	25.8	333
	Newcastle-BNG	27.9	46.0	26.0	265
	Gateshead-BNG	39.7	35.3	25.0	68
Other mixed	BNG	29.7	40.1	30.2	212
	Newcastle-BNG	25.0	40.9	34.1	164
	Gateshead-BNG	45.8	37.5	16.7	48
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		47.9	39.3	12.8	138,873

²² The base is those people aged 16-74.

Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where:

- Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
- Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1). 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
- Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
- Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

Table 14.6: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
White & Black Caribbean	BNG	28.9	8.7	2.8	2.8	5.0	1.4	4.1	12.8	8.7	11.0	13.8	218
	Newcastle- BNG	28.7	6.6	4.4	4.4	5.9	2.2	2.2	14.0	9.6	11.0	11.0	136
	Gateshead- BNG	29.3	12.2	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	7.3	11.0	7.3	11.0	18.3	82
White & Black African	BNG	15.7	8.7	1.7	0.0	7.0	7.0	0.0	30.2	15.7	5.2	8.7	172
	Newcastle- BNG	17.3	6.5	2.2	0.0	6.5	6.5	0.0	33.1	17.3	2.2	8.6	139
	Gateshead- BNG	9.1	18.2	0.0	0.0	9.1	9.1	0.0	18.2	9.1	18.2	9.1	33
White & Asian	BNG	21.2	10.5	5.9	2.5	9.6	7.1	1.7	21.2	10.2	2.5	7.6	354
	Newcastle- BNG	17.9	11.6	5.6	1.1	9.3	9.3	2.2	24.3	9.0	2.2	7.5	268
	Gateshead- BNG	31.4	7.0	7.0	7.0	10.5	0.0	0.0	11.6	14.0	3.5	8.1	86
Other mixed	BNG	21.1	2.8	1.4	0.0	9.9	7.5	4.2	28.2	8.0	5.6	11.3	213
	Newcastle- BNG	23.6	0.0	1.9	0.0	9.6	8.3	3.8	28.7	10.8	3.8	9.6	157
	Gateshead- BNG	14.3	10.7	0.0	0.0	10.7	5.4	5.4	26.8	0.0	10.7	16.1	56
All people in the BNG area		31.9	10.7	3.0	0.9	5.8	3.0	13.2	7.7	7.6	11.3	4.9	138,930

Table 14.7: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long-term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
White & Black Caribbean	BNG	5.2	19.1	6.9	1.7	8.1	13.3	19.7	26.0	17.3	8.7	173
	Newcastle-BNG	5.4	18.9	5.4	2.7	6.3	15.3	19.8	26.1	15.3	10.8	111
	Gateshead-BNG	4.8	19.4	9.7	0.0	11.3	9.7	19.4	25.8	21.0	4.8	62
White & Black African	BNG	17.1	14.3	4.3	4.3	17.1	4.3	8.6	30.0	30.0	0.0	70
	Newcastle-BNG	14.1	15.6	4.7	4.7	18.8	4.7	4.7	32.8	32.8	0.0	64
	Gateshead-BNG	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6
White & Asian	BNG	7.7	17.9	11.9	4.3	7.7	12.3	19.1	19.1	19.1	0.0	235
	Newcastle-BNG	6.7	15.1	14.0	5.6	5.0	12.8	21.2	19.6	19.6	0.0	179
	Gateshead-BNG	10.7	26.8	5.4	0.0	16.1	10.7	12.5	17.9	17.9	0.0	56
Other mixed	BNG	8.2	17.0	12.2	4.8	6.1	25.2	10.2	16.3	10.2	6.1	147
	Newcastle-BNG	11.0	11.0	16.5	6.4	8.3	24.8	11.0	11.0	5.5	5.5	109
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	34.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.3	7.9	31.6	23.7	7.9	38
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>6.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>93,602</i>

Table 14.8: Mixed heritage settlement patterns in Newcastle by Local Authority ward (the BNG wards are shaded)

% of Newcastle's White & Black Caribbean population in each ward		% of Newcastle's White & Black Caribbean population in each ward	
Benwell	5.6	Castle	2.5
Blakelaw	6.1	Dene	3.3
Byker	1.8	Denton	1.0
Elswick	5.8	Grange	2.5
Fawdon	3.0	Heaton	7.1
Fenham	2.8	Jesmond	2.8
Kenton	3.0	Lemington	4.3
Monkchester	5.6	Newburn	3.0
Moorside	7.3	Sandyford	6.8
Scotswood	2.5	South Gosforth	3.3
Walker	2.0	Westerhope	2.0
Walkergate	3.5	Woolsington	2.0
West City	4.1		
Wingrove	6.1	Newcastle	100.0
		Newcastle (N)	398

% of Newcastle's White & Black African population in each ward		% of Newcastle's White & Black African population in each ward	
Benwell	1.7	Castle	4.0
Blakelaw	6.2	Dene	7.2
Byker	1.0	Denton	2.0
Elswick	4.0	Grange	5.4
Fawdon	7.7	Heaton	5.2
Fenham	2.2	Jesmond	6.4
Kenton	1.0	Lemington	1.5
Monkchester	1.7	Newburn	0.7
Moorside	15.8	Sandyford	7.2
Scotswood	0.0	South Gosforth	5.7
Walker	0.0	Westerhope	0.0
Walkergate	0.7	Woolsington	0.0
West City	3.0		
Wingrove	9.7	Newcastle	100.0
		Newcastle (N)	403

% of Newcastle's White & Asian population in each ward		% of Newcastle's White & Asian population in each ward	
Benwell	1.5	Castle	3.7
Blakelaw	2.0	Dene	5.8
Byker	3.4	Denton	1.3
Elswick	5.4	Grange	6.3
Fawdon	1.6	Heaton	5.6
Fenham	4.4	Jesmond	8.3
Kenton	5.2	Lemington	2.0

Monkchester	1.0		Newburn	1.8
Moorside	7.0		Sandyford	6.1
Scotswood	1.5		South Gosforth	6.0
Walker	0.7		Westerhope	1.8
Walkergate	1.5		Woolsington	2.6
West City	3.7			
Wingrove	9.8		Newcastle	100.0
			Newcastle (N)	912

% of Newcastle's Other Mixed population in each ward		% of Newcastle's Other Mixed population in each ward	
Benwell	3.0	Castle	4.5
Blakelaw	3.5	Dene	6.3
Byker	3.0	Denton	0.7
Elswick	5.1	Grange	8.7
Fawdon	2.4	Heaton	6.1
Fenham	1.0	Jesmond	10.6
Kenton	1.0	Lemington	0.9
Monkchester	1.6	Newburn	0.5
Moorside	10.8	Sandyford	7.8
Scotswood	1.4	South Gosforth	5.7
Walker	2.6	Westerhope	0.0
Walkergate	1.0	Woolsington	1.9
West City	3.0		
Wingrove	6.8	Newcastle	100.0
		Newcastle (N)	577

Table 14.9: Mixed heritage settlement patterns in Gateshead by Local Authority ward (the BNG wards are shaded)

% of Gateshead's White & Black Caribbean population in each ward		% of Gateshead's White & Black Caribbean population in each ward	
Bede	7.2	Birtley	3.0
Bensham	5.5	Blaydon	3.8
Deckham	7.2	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	4.6
Dunston	11.4	Chowdene	2.5
Felling	13.1	Crawcrook and Greenside	3.0
Pelaw and Heworth	1.3	High Fell	1.3
Saltwell	3.4	Lamesley	1.7
Teams	7.2	Leam	5.5
		Low Fell	3.8
		Ryton	2.5
		Whickham North	5.9
		Whickham South	3.4
		Winlaton	0.0
		Wrekendyke	3.0
		Gateshead	100.0
		Gateshead (N)	238

% of Gateshead's White & Black African population in each ward		% of Gateshead's White & Black African population in each ward	
Bede	3.8	Birtley	0.0
Bensham	0.0	Blaydon	15.2
Deckham	3.8	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	3.8
Dunston	7.6	Chowdene	5.1
Felling	8.9	Crawcrook and Greenside	7.6
Pelaw and Heworth	0.0	High Fell	0.0
Saltwell	13.9	Lamesley	3.8
Teams	3.8	Leam	3.8
		Low Fell	0.0
		Ryton	10.1
		Whickham North	0.0
		Whickham South	0.0
		Winlaton	0.0
		Wrekendyke	8.9
		Gateshead	100.0
		Gateshead (N)	85

% of Gateshead's White & Asian population in each ward		% of Gateshead's White & Asian population in each ward	
Bede	6.0	Birtley	2.1
Bensham	4.2	Blaydon	4.2
Deckham	4.9	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	3.5
Dunston	6.0	Chowdene	3.5
Felling	4.2	Crawcrook and Greenside	5.7
Pelaw and Heworth	4.6	High Fell	3.5
Saltwell	9.9	Lamesley	2.8
Teams	4.2	Leam	0.0
		Low Fell	4.2
		Ryton	5.3
		Whickham North	7.8
		Whickham South	6.4
		Winlaton	0.0
		Wrekendyke	6.7
		Gateshead	100.0
		Gateshead (N)	284

% of Gateshead's Other Mixed population in each ward		% of Gateshead's Other Mixed population in each ward	
Bede	7.6	Birtley	4.6
Bensham	4.6	Blaydon	3.0
Deckham	3.6	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	4.6
Dunston	6.1	Chowdene	3.0
Felling	7.1	Crawcrook and Greenside	3.0
Pelaw and Heworth	6.1	High Fell	5.1
Saltwell	5.6	Lamesley	3.0
Teams	6.1	Leam	7.1
		Low Fell	7.6
		Ryton	7.1
		Whickham North	1.5
		Whickham South	0.0
		Winlaton	2.0
		Wrekendyke	1.5
		Gateshead	100.0
		Gateshead (N)	191

Table 14.10: Distribution of Newcastle BNG area's Mixed heritage populations across each BNG ward in Newcastle

Newcastle BNG wards	White & Black Caribbean	White & Black African	White & Asian	Other Mixed
Benwell	9.4	3.2	3.2	6.4
Blakelaw	10.3	11.3	4.1	7.5
Byker	3.0	1.8	7.0	6.4
Elswick	9.8	7.2	11.0	10.9
Fawdon	5.1	14.0	3.4	5.3
Fenham	4.7	4.1	9.0	2.3
Kenton	5.1	1.8	10.6	2.3
Monkchester	9.4	3.2	2.0	3.4
Moorside	12.4	29.0	14.4	23.4
Scotswood	4.3	0.0	3.2	3.0
Walker	3.4	0.0	1.4	5.7
Walkergate	6.0	1.4	3.2	2.3
West City	6.8	5.4	7.7	6.4
Wingrove	10.3	17.6	20.0	14.7
Total Newcastle BNG	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14.11: Distribution of Gateshead BNG area's Mixed heritage populations across each BNG ward in Gateshead

Gateshead BNG wards	White & Black Caribbean	White & Black African	White & Asian	Other Mixed
Bede	12.8	9.1	13.6	16.3
Bensham	9.8	0.0	9.6	9.8
Deckham	12.8	9.1	11.2	7.6
Dunston	20.3	18.2	13.6	13.0
Felling	23.3	21.2	9.6	15.2
Pelaw and Heworth	2.3	0.0	10.4	13.0
Saltwell	6.0	33.3	22.4	12.0
Teams	12.8	9.1	9.6	13.0
Total Gateshead BNG	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14.12: Housing Tenure

		Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
White & Black Caribbean	BNG	5.6	24.1	0.0	40.3	13.3	14.3	0.8	1.6	377
	Newcastle-BNG	4.3	24.8	0.0	39.7	15.4	15.8	1.3	2.6	243
	Gateshead-BNG	8.2	24.6	0.0	44.0	10.4	12.7	0.0	0.0	134
White & Black African	BNG	6.5	14.9	1.5	21.8	6.1	44.8	2.3	1.9	261
	Newcastle-BNG	6.3	10.9	1.8	20.8	7.2	51.6	1.4	2.3	226
	Gateshead-BNG	8.6	42.9	0.0	31.4	0.0	8.6	8.6	0.0	35
White & Asian	BNG	10.4	27.2	0.0	26.3	4.2	25.0	4.3	2.6	577
	Newcastle-BNG	10.4	26.8	0.0	27.7	3.8	27.5	2.7	3.4	454
	Gateshead-BNG	11.4	30.9	0.0	23.6	5.7	17.9	10.6	0.0	123
Other mixed	BNG	6.3	21.1	0.0	26.2	7.7	22.8	13.1	2.8	351
	Newcastle-BNG	2.6	19.6	0.0	25.3	10.2	24.5	12.5	2.6	258
	Gateshead-BNG	16.1	23.7	0.0	26.9	0.0	16.1	14.0	3.2	93
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,138</i>

Table 14.13: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
White & Black Caribbean	BNG	69.3	29.1	0.0	0.0	1.6	371
	Newcastle-BNG	64.5	32.9	0.0	0.0	2.6	234
	Gateshead-BNG	77.4	22.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	137
White & Black African	BNG	53.5	43.3	1.2	0.0	2.0	245
	Newcastle-BNG	53.8	43.9	0.0	0.0	2.4	212
	Gateshead-BNG	51.5	39.4	9.1	0.0	0.0	33
White & Asian	BNG	67.9	27.7	0.5	0.7	3.1	573
	Newcastle-BNG	67.3	27.7	0.0	0.9	4.0	447
	Gateshead-BNG	69.8	27.8	2.4	0.0	0.0	126
Other mixed	BNG	61.0	36.2	0.0	0.8	2.0	356
	Newcastle-BNG	60.8	36.6	0.0	0.0	2.6	265
	Gateshead-BNG	61.5	35.2	0.0	3.3	0.0	91
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

Table 14.14: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White & Black Caribbean	28	19.7	13	16.5	15	23.8
White & Black African	34	41.5	34	44.7	0	0.0
White & Asian	33	20.4	27	22.3	6	14.6
Other mixed	22	18.2	10	12.8	12	27.9
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 14.15: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White & Black Caribbean	21	15.1	12	13.8	9	17.3
White & Black African	33	45.2	33	51.6	0	0.0
White & Asian	38	22.2	35	26.1	3	8.1
Other mixed	9	8.0	6	9.2	3	6.4
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

Black African Residential Situations and Experiences

This profile of the Black African population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) area is based upon data from the Census of population and comprises a series of tables presenting information about the size, socio-economic profile and housing situations of Black African people. Key findings are highlighted in the box below.

- In 2001 the Black African population of the BNG area was small, making up just 0.3 per cent of the population of Newcastle's and 0.1 per cent of the population of Gateshead. In total, just over 0.3 per cent of the BNG area's minority ethnic population is of Black African origin. The population increased, however, by 77 per cent between 1991 and 2001, from 335 to 592 people.
- The Black African population of the BNG area had a much younger than average age profile. For example, Only 3 per cent of Black African people were aged 60 or over compared with 20.5 per cent of the total BNG population.
- Reflecting the age profile of the Black African population, there were relatively few pensioner households in 2001 (2.4 per cent compared with 16.7 per cent of all BNG households). Most commonly, Black African households comprised one single person (42.1 per cent compared with 21.8 per cent of all BNG households), the majority of whom were not pensioners, and one quarter of households were recorded as being neither single person nor one family households.
- The Black African population is relatively well educated compared to the total BNG population. In 2001, 37.2 per cent of Black Africans held higher level qualifications, compared to just 12.8 per cent of all people in the BNG area. Despite this, only one quarter of Black Africans in the BNG area were in employment compared with 46.5 per cent of all BNG residents. This partly reflects the very high proportion of students within the Black African population (44.4 per cent compared with 10.7 per cent of all people in the BNG area).
- Almost one third of Black Africans in the BNG area had never worked, compared with 9.2 per cent of the total BNG population. However, those in employment tended to work in managerial or professional occupations.
- According to the Census, in 2001 the Black African population of the Newcastle BNG area was concentrated in Moorside, which is home to over one quarter (27.6 per cent) of Black African people. There were also sizeable Black African communities in Wingrove and Kenton.
- A similar picture of residential clustering emerged in the Gateshead BNG area, with Saltwell and Bede home to 47.5 per cent of the Black African population (28.1 per cent in Saltwell and 19.4 per cent in Bede).
- Black Africans in the BNG area were significantly under-represented in owner occupation in 2001, with only 15 per cent of Black African people owning their own homes compared with 46.1 per cent of all BNG residents. Most commonly, Black African households resided in the private rented sector (28 per cent compared with 10.7 per cent of all BNG residents) but a significant proportion were living rent free. Black African people were significantly under-represented in the council housing sector (17.9 per cent rented their homes from the council compared with 33.1 per cent of all people in the BNG area) but were more than twice as likely as the total BNG population to rent from another social landlord.

- Black African households were concentrated in flatted accommodation – the majority (56.6 per cent) lived in flats, maisonettes or apartments, compared with just over 20 per cent of all BNG residents.
- Housing deprivation, including overcrowding, are revealed by the Census to be common experiences amongst the Black African population. Black African households were more than twice as likely as all households in the BNG area to experience housing deprivation (29.2 per cent compared with 13.8 per cent) and over 1 in 4 Black African households was recorded as being overcrowded in 2001.

Table 15.1: Size of the population

	Number of people	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	592	3.4	0.3
Newcastle-BNG	453	3.2	0.4
Gateshead-BNG	139	3.8	0.2

Table 15.2: Population Change between 1991 and 2001

	BNG area			Newcastle-BNG			Gateshead-BNG		
	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change
Black African	335	592	76.7	304	453	49.0	31	139	348.4
All people	202,314	192,117	-5.0	133,580	127,276	-4.7	68,734	64,841	-5.7

Table 15.3: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Black African	BNG area	21.1	20.4	50.0	5.3	1.5	0.5	1.0	582
	Newcastle-BNG	21.1	21.9	49.6	4.8	1.3	0.0	1.3	456
	Gateshead-BNG	21.4	15.1	51.6	7.1	2.4	2.4	0.0	126
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 15.4: Change in the age structure of the population between 1991 and 2001

Percentage change in size of population		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Black African	BNG area	39.8	120.4	71.2	244.4	80.0	-62.5	500.0	73.7
	Newcastle-BNG	15.7	127.3	41.3	266.7	50.0	-100.0	500.0	50.0
	Gateshead-BNG	440.0	90.0	550.0	200.0	200.0	50.0	-	306.5
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>-5.8</i>	<i>-3.2</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-2.8</i>	<i>-19.0</i>	<i>-16.2</i>	<i>-5.4</i>	<i>-5.0</i>

Table 15.5: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
Black African	BNG	2.4	42.1	1.2	15.1	6.0	4.8	3.6	25.0	252
	Newcastle-BNG	3.0	42.6	1.5	14.4	5.9	5.9	1.5	25.2	202
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	40.0	0.0	18.0	6.0	0.0	12.0	24.0	50
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Table 15.6: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
Black African	BNG	29.4	74
	Newcastle-BNG	29.2	59
	Gateshead-BNG	30.0	15
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Table 15.7: Qualifications²³

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
Black African	BNG	19.8	43.0	37.2	444
	Newcastle-BNG	16.8	42.8	40.5	346
	Gateshead-BNG	30.6	43.9	25.5	98
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>47.9</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>138,873</i>

²³ The base is those people aged 16-74.

Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where:

- Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
- Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1). 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+ 'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
- Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
- Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

Table 15.8: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
Black African	BNG	18.2	5.8	0.7	0.0	4.9	12.1	1.3	32.3	4.7	2.0	17.9	446
	Newcastle-BNG	19.7	6.0	0.9	0.0	3.0	12.5	0.9	33.7	3.6	2.7	17.0	335
	Gateshead-BNG	13.5	5.4	0.0	0.0	10.8	10.8	2.7	27.9	8.1	0.0	20.7	111
All people in the BNG area		31.9	10.7	3.0	0.9	5.8	3.0	13.2	7.7	7.6	11.3	4.9	138,930

Table 15.9: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long-term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
Black African	BNG	13.3	17.4	6.7	4.4	2.2	10.4	7.8	37.8	32.2	5.6	270
	Newcastle-BNG	18.0	15.0	6.0	4.5	3.0	14.0	6.0	33.5	30.5	3.0	200
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	24.3	8.6	4.3	0.0	0.0	12.9	50.0	37.1	12.9	70
All people in the BNG area		6.1	16.8	11.6	5.6	10.3	19.3	17.8	12.5	9.2	3.3	93,602

Table 15.10: Residential distribution of the Newcastle Black African population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Black African population
Benwell	3.3
Blakelaw	1.8
Byker	3.4
Elswick	4.2
Fawdon	2.0
Fenham	2.8
Kenton	6.6
Monkchester	1.9
Moorside	16.9
Scotswood	0.8
Walker	3.7
Walkergate	1.4
West City	5.7
Wingrove	6.9
Castle	1.6
Dene	6.2
Denton	3.0
Grange	7.5
Heaton	5.1
Jesmond	2.8
Lemington	1.1
Newburn	0.4
Sandyford	6.5
South Gosforth	3.1
Westerhope	0.0
Woolsington	1.2
Newcastle	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>738</i>

Table 15.11: Residential distribution of the Gateshead Black African population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Black African population
Bede	12.6
Bensham	8.4
Deckham	3.7
Dunston	5.1
Felling	8.4
Pelaw and Heworth	2.8
Saltwell	18.2
Teams	5.6
Birtley	2.8
Blaydon	3.7
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	0.0
Chowdene	1.4
Crawcrook and Greenside	1.4
High Fell	4.7
Lamesley	0.0
Leam	3.3
Low Fell	4.2

Ryton	3.7
Whickham North	6.1
Whickham South	1.4
Winlaton	0.0
Wrekendyke	2.3
Gateshead	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>208</i>

Table 15.12: Distribution of Newcastle BNG area's Black African population across each BNG ward in Newcastle

Newcastle BNG wards	%
Benwell	5.3
Blakelaw	2.9
Byker	5.5
Elswick	6.8
Fawdon	3.3
Fenham	4.6
Kenton	10.8
Monkchester	3.1
Moorside	27.6
Scotswood	1.3
Walker	6.0
Walkergate	2.2
West City	9.3
Wingrove	11.3
Total Newcastle BNG	100.0

Table 15.13: Distribution of Gateshead BNG area's Black African population across each BNG ward in Gateshead

Gateshead BNG wards	%
Bede	19.4
Bensham	12.9
Deckham	5.8
Dunston	7.9
Felling	12.9
Pelaw and Heworth	4.3
Saltwell	28.1
Teams	8.6
Total Gateshead BNG	100.0

Table 15.14: Housing Tenure

		Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
Black African	BNG	4.4	10.6	0.0	17.9	13.3	28.8	20.0	4.9	586
	Newcastle-BNG	3.3	10.6	0.0	17.9	17.2	30.2	15.7	5.5	455
	Gateshead-BNG	8.4	10.7	0.0	18.3	0.0	24.4	35.1	3.1	131
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,138</i>

Table 15.15: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
Black African	BNG	37.4	56.6	0.5	0.5	5.0	580
	Newcastle-BNG	39.0	54.1	0.7	0.7	5.5	451
	Gateshead-BNG	31.8	65.1	0.0	0.0	3.1	129
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

Table 15.16: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Black African	73	29.2	60	30.8	13	23.6
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 15.17: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Black African	52	21.4	40	21.3	12	21.8
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

Black Caribbean Residential Situations and Experiences

This profile of the Black Caribbean population in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead (BNG) area is based upon data from the Census of population and comprises a series of tables presenting information about the size, socio-economic profile and housing situations of Black Caribbean. Key findings are highlighted in the box below although these are limited as a result of the very small number of Black Caribbean people resident in the BNG area in 2001.

- There were 103 Black Caribbean people living in the BNG area in 2001: 73 in the Newcastle and 30 in Gateshead.
- In contrast to all other minority ethnic groups, the Black Caribbean population of the BNG area fell between 1991 and 2001. This overall picture masks a very slight rise in the population of the Gateshead BNG area (from 19 to 30 individuals).
- In total 46.2 per cent of Black Caribbean households were single person households and 23.1 per cent were neither one person nor one family households (compared to just 7.5 per cent of the total BNG population).
- Only 15.4 per cent of Black Caribbean households in the BNG area contained one or more dependent children (compared with 27.9 per cent of all BNG households), but this represents just 6 households.
- Black Caribbean people in the BNG area were relatively well educated with nearly half having attained a higher level qualifications. This was particularly true in Gateshead where 82 per cent of Black Caribbean residents had higher level qualifications in 2001.
- The majority of Black Caribbean people (65 per cent) in the BNG area were employed in lower managerial and professional occupations in 2001 and one third were students.
- More Black Caribbean people lived in Moorside than in any other ward in Newcastle (12.2 per cent of Newcastle's Black Caribbean population, and 21.9 per cent of the Black Caribbean population of the Newcastle BNG area lived in Moorside). A further 10.1 per cent of Newcastle's Black Caribbean population resided in Wingrove. Heaton, Jesmond, Dene and South Gosforth (all located outside the BNG area) are also, however, home to between 7.8 per cent and 9.3 per cent of the Black Caribbean population of Newcastle.
- One third of Black Caribbean people in the Gateshead BNG area were resident in Saltwell, and 27 per cent lived in Deckham.
- Over half the Black Caribbean population of the BNG area rented their accommodation: 26 per cent rented from the council; 26 per cent rented from a private landlord; and 8 per cent rented from an other social Landlord. Nearly 10 per cent of the Black Caribbean population in the BNG area was living rent free compared to just 1.2 per cent of the total BNG population
- Most commonly, Black Caribbean households in the BNG area resided in a house or bungalow (63 per cent lived in this type of accommodation in 2001) but they were less likely to do so than the total BNG population.
- Black Caribbean households were more likely than all BNG households to be living in housing deprivation (23.5 per cent compared with 13.8 per cent).

Table 16.1: Size of the population

	Number of people	Percentage of minority ethnic population	Percentage of total population
BNG Area	103	0.6	0.1
Newcastle-BNG	73	0.5	0.1
Gateshead-BNG	30	1.0	0.1

Table 16.2: Population Change between 1991 and 2001

	BNG area			Newcastle-BNG			Gateshead-BNG		
	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change	1991	2001	% change
Black Caribbean	137	103	-24.8	118	73	-38.1	19	30	57.9
All people	202,314	192,117	-5.0	133,580	127,276	-4.7	68,734	64,841	-5.7

Table 16.3: Age profile

Age profile		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Black Caribbean	BNG area	15.8	12.6	52.6	3.2	3.2	0.0	12.6	95
	Newcastle-BNG	11.8	17.6	44.1	4.4	4.4	0.0	17.6	68
	Gateshead-BNG	25.9	0.0	74.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>20.4</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>192,139</i>

Table 16.4: Change in the age structure of the population between 1991 and 2001

Percentage change in size of population		0-15	16-24	25-49	50-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Black Caribbean	BNG area	-59.5	-50.0	25.0	-75.0	-25.0	-100.0	200.0	-30.7
	Newcastle-BNG	-75.8	-36.8	-9.1	-70.0	-25.0	-100.0	200.0	-42.4
	Gateshead-BNG	75.0	-100.0	185.7	-100.0	-	-100.0	-	42.1
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>-5.8</i>	<i>-3.2</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-2.8</i>	<i>-19.0</i>	<i>-16.2</i>	<i>-5.4</i>	<i>-5.0</i>

Table 16.5: Household structure

		Household type								Total Hhlds
		One person		One family					Other	
		Pensioner	Other	All pensioner	Couples with dependent children	Couples without dependent children	Lone parents with dependent children	Lone parent without dependent children		
Black Caribbean	BNG	7.7	38.5	0.0	15.4	15.4	0.0	0.0	23.1	39
	Newcastle-BNG	11.1	33.3	0.0	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.0	33.3	27
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	50.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>16.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>84,405</i>

Table 16.6: Households containing one or more dependent children

		Households with dependent children (%)	Number of households with dependent children
Black Caribbean	BNG	15.4	6
	Newcastle-BNG	11.1	3
	Gateshead-BNG	25.0	3
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>27.9</i>	<i>23,532</i>

Table 16.7: Qualifications²⁴

		No qualifications or level unknown	Lower level qualifications	Higher level qualifications	Total number
Black Caribbean	BNG	18.2	34.8	47.0	66
	Newcastle-BNG	24.5	40.8	34.7	49
	Gateshead-BNG	0.0	17.6	82.4	17
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>47.9</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>138,873</i>

²⁴ The base is those people aged 16-74.

Higher level qualifications refer to level 4/5 and lower level qualifications refer to levels 1, 2 and 3 in England, where:

- Level 1: 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
- Level 2: 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1). 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+'A' levels/ AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
- Level 3: 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
- Level 4/5: First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor

Table 16.8: Economic Activity

Economic Activity		Economically Active						Economically Inactive					
		Employee/ Full-time	Employee/ Part-time	Self- employed/ Full-time	Self- employed/ Part-time	Unemployed	Full-time Student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/ family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other	All people
Black Caribbean	BNG	19.0	4.8	14.3	0.0	0.0	14.3	4.8	19.0	9.5	9.5	4.8	63
	Newcastle- BNG	7.7	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	30.8	15.4	15.4	7.7	39
	Gateshead- BNG	37.5	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>31.9</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>138,930</i>

Table 16.9: Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

NS-SeC		1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	2. Lower managerial & professional occupations	3. Intermediate occupations	4. Small employers and own account workers	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6. Semi-routine occupations	7. Routine occupations	8. Never worked or long-term unemployed	L14.1 Never worked	L14.2 Long-term unemployed	Total number
Black Caribbean	BNG	8.8	64.7	8.8	8.8	0.0	0.0	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	34
	Newcastle-BNG	0.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	Gateshead-BNG	15.8	68.4	0.0	15.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>6.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>93,602</i>

Table 16.10: Residential distribution of the Newcastle Black Caribbean population, by Wards (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Black Caribbean population
Benwell	2.3
Blakelaw	2.3
Byker	4.7
Elswick	0.0
Fawdon	3.1
Fenham	4.7
Kenton	4.7
Monkchester	0.0
Moorside	12.4
Scotswood	2.3
Walker	2.3
Walkergate	0.0
West City	7.8
Wingrove	10.1
Castle	2.3
Dene	7.8
Denton	0.0
Grange	2.3
Heaton	8.5
Jesmond	9.3
Lemington	0.0
Newburn	2.3
Sandyford	3.1
South Gosforth	7.8
Westerhope	0.0
Woolsington	0.0
Newcastle	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>133</i>

Table 16.11: Residential distribution of the Gateshead Black Caribbean population, by Ward (BNG wards shaded)

Ward	% of Black Caribbean population
Bede	5.9
Bensham	0.0
Deckham	15.7
Dunston	5.9
Felling	0.0
Pelaw and Heworth	5.9
Saltwell	19.6
Teams	5.9
Birtley	5.9
Blaydon	5.9
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	0.0
Chowdene	0.0
Crawcrook and Greenside	0.0
High Fell	5.9
Lamesley	0.0
Leam	5.9
Low Fell	11.8
Ryton	0.0
Whickham North	0.0

Whickham South	0.0
Winlaton	0.0
Wrekendyke	5.9
Gateshead	100.0
<i>Total number of people</i>	<i>50</i>

Table 16.12: Distribution of Newcastle BNG area's Black Caribbean population across each BNG ward in Newcastle

Newcastle BNG wards	%
Benwell	4.1
Blakelaw	4.1
Byker	8.2
Elswick	0.0
Fawdon	5.5
Fenham	8.2
Kenton	8.2
Monkchester	0.0
Moorside	21.9
Scotswood	4.1
Walker	4.1
Walkergate	0.0
West City	13.7
Wingrove	17.8
Total Newcastle BNG	100.0

Table 16.13: Distribution of Gateshead BNG area's Black Caribbean population across each BNG ward in Gateshead

Gateshead BNG wards	%
Bede	10.0
Bensham	0.0
Deckham	26.7
Dunston	10.0
Felling	0.0
Pelaw and Heworth	10.0
Saltwell	33.3
Teams	10.0
Total Gateshead BNG	100.0

Table 16.14: Housing Tenure

		Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or a loan	Shared ownership	Rented from council	Other social rented	Private rented	Living rent free	Living in a Communal Establishment	Total number
Black Caribbean	BNG	6.3	17.7	0.0	26.0	8.3	26.0	9.4	6.3	96
	Newcastle-BNG	4.1	12.3	0.0	20.5	11.0	26.0	8.2	8.2	66
	Gateshead-BNG	10.0	26.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	20.0	10.0	0.0	30
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>13.6</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,138</i>

Table 16.15: Accommodation Type

		Accommodation type					Total Number
		House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Household in shared accommodation	Communal Establishment	
Black Caribbean	BNG	63.0	27.2	0.0	0.0	9.8	92
	Newcastle-BNG	54.1	31.1	0.0	0.0	14.8	61
	Gateshead-BNG	80.6	19.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	31
<i>All people in the BNG area</i>		<i>75.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>192,098</i>

Table 16.16: Households living in housing deprivation

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Black Caribbean	12	23.5	9	25.7	3	18.8
All households	11,688	13.8	7,488	13.6	4,200	14.2

Table 16.17: Overcrowded Households

	BNG area		Newcastle-BNG		Gateshead-BNG	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Black Caribbean	3	6.3	3	9.1	0	0.0
All households	7,624	9.0	5,382	9.8	2,242	7.6

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Appendix 1: Profile of Survey Sample

Table A1: Geographical Location

	Number	%
Gateshead	45	42.1
Newcastle	62	57.9
Total	107	100.0

Table A2: Age

	Number	%
16 - 24	4	3.8
25 - 34	30	28.3
35 - 44	31	29.2
45 - 54	27	25.5
55 - 64	9	8.5
65+	5	4.7
Total	106	100.0
Missing	1	
	107	

Table A3: Ethnic origin

	Number	%
White British	6	5.6
Other White	13	12.1
British or Black African	6	5.6
Indian	7	6.5
Pakistani	30	28.0
Bangladeshi	22	20.6
Other Asian	2	1.9
Chinese	13	12.1
Other	8	7.5
Total	107	100.0

Table A4: Ethnic group

	Number	%
Bangladeshi	22	20.6
Jewish	14	13.1
Pakistani	30	28.0
Chinese	15	14.0
Czech Romas	8	7.5
Indian	7	6.5
Other	11	10.3
Total	107	100.0

Table A5: Religion

	Number	%
None	10	9.4
Christian	14	13.2
Buddhist	3	2.8
Hindu	5	4.7
Jewish	14	13.2
Muslim	57	53.8
Sikh	2	1.9
Any other religion	1	0.9
Total	106	100.0
Missing	1	
	107	

Table A6: Born in the UK?

	Number	%
Yes	12	11.2
No	95	88.8
Total	107	100.0

Table A7: When did you arrive in the UK?

	Number	%
In the last 6 months	4	4.3
6 months - 1 year	4	4.3
1 - 2 years	7	7.4
2 - 3 years	5	5.3
3 - 5 years	9	9.6
5 - 7 years	6	6.4
7 - 10 years	6	6.4
10 - 15 years	4	4.3
15 - 20 years	6	6.4
over 20 years	43	45.7
Total	94	100.0
n/a	13	
	107	

Table A8: New immigrant?

	Number	%
Yes	35	32.7
No	72	67.3
Total	107	100.0

Table A9: How would you describe your current immigration status?

	Number	%
British citizen	49	52.1
Asylum seeker - no other details provided	2	2.1
Asylum seeker - awaiting a decision	1	1.1
Refugee - no other details provided	6	6.4
Refugee - with indefinite leave to remain	1	1.1
Indefinite Leave to Remain	10	10.6
On a Marriage Visa or as a dependent child	11	11.7
On a work permit	2	2.1
On a Tourist Visa	1	1.1
Not subject to immigration control	3	3.2
A8 national registered with the Workers Registration Scheme	2	2.1
A8 national (no other details)	5	5.3
Don't know	1	1.1
Total	94	100.0
Unclear	2	
n/a	9	
Missing	2	
Total	13	
	107	

Table A10: When did you move to Newcastle/Gateshead?

	Number	%
In the last 6 months	5	5.0
6 months - 1 year	5	5.0
1 - 2 years	9	8.9
2 - 3 years	9	8.9
3 - 5 years	9	8.9
5 - 7 years	10	9.9
7 - 10 years	7	6.9
10 - 15 years	6	5.9
15 - 20 years	9	8.9
over 20 years	32	31.7
Total	101	100.0
n/a	4	
Missing	2	
Total	6	
	107	

Table A11: Where were you living before you moved to Newcastle/Gateshead?

	Number	%
Newcastle	7	7.2
Gateshead	1	1.0
Blackburn	1	1.0
London	10	10.3
Bradford	4	4.1
Abroad	46	47.4
Sheffield	2	2.1
Birmingham	2	2.1
Midlands	1	1.0
Stoke on Trent	1	1.0
Newport	1	1.0
Sunderland	4	4.1
Liverpool	3	3.1
North Shields	1	1.0
Whitehaven	1	1.0
Cambridge	1	1.0
Rochdale	1	1.0
Washington	1	1.0
Buckinghamshire	1	1.0
Luton	1	1.0
Huddersfield	1	1.0
Middlesbrough	1	1.0
Peterborough	1	1.0
Ashford	2	2.1
Hadfield	1	1.0
Manchester	1	1.0
Total	97	100.0
Unclear	1	
n/a	4	
Missing	5	
Total	10	
	107	

Table A12: Number of children under 16 years of age who usually live with you?

	Number	%
0	42	39.6
1	10	9.4
2	26	24.5
3	15	14.2
4	7	6.6
5	4	3.8
6	2	1.9
Total	106	100.0
Missing	1	
	107	

Table A13: Marital status

	Number	%
Single	5	4.7
Married/ in long-term relationship	89	83.2
Divorced	5	4.7
Widowed	3	2.8
Other	4	3.7
Did not want to say	1	0.9
Total	107	100.0

Table A14: Are you currently working?

	Number	%
Yes	43	40.2
No	64	59.8
Total	107	100.0

Table A15: Details of type of work

	Number	%
Full-time	18	16.8
Part-time	15	14.0
Self-employed	9	8.4
Employed	4	3.7
Voluntary	4	3.7
Permanent	1	0.9
Temporary	0	0
Contracted	0	0
Informal	1	0.9

Table A16: If not currently working, how would you describe your current situation?

	Number	%
Unemployed and available for work	16	23.5
Not allowed to work	3	4.4
Permanently sick or disabled	6	8.8
Temporarily sick or disabled	1	1.5
Full time student	3	4.4
Part time student	5	7.4
Looking after the home	22	32.4
Retired	10	14.7
Something else	2	2.9
Total	68	100.0
n/a	39	
	107	

Table A17: What is your first language?

	Number	%
English	19	18.1
Punjabi	10	9.5
Urdu	16	15.2
French	1	1.0
Czech	7	6.7
Bengali	17	16.2
Cantonese	12	11.4
Mandarin	1	1.0
Sylheti	4	3.8
Chinese	1	1.0
Hakka	1	1.0
Hindu	1	1.0
Slovakian	1	1.0
Arabic	1	1.0
Hindi	2	1.9
Tigrinya	4	3.8
Sri Lankan	1	1.0
Norwegian	1	1.0
Urdu/Punjabi	2	1.9
Farsi	1	1.0
Kurdish	2	1.9
Total	105	100.0
Missing	2	
	107	

Table A18: If your first language is not English, how well would you say you speak English?

	Number	%
Very well	15	17.2
Fairly well	24	27.6
Slightly	38	43.7
Not at all	10	11.5
Total	87	100.0
n/a	19	
Missing	1	
Total	20	
	107	

Table A19: Do you, or a member of your household, have a health problem, long-term illness or disability which limits your daily activities and work you can do?

	Number	%
Yes - respondent only	20	18.7
Yes - respondent and other household member(s)	8	7.5
Yes - other household member(s) only	15	14.0
No	64	59.8
Total	107	100.0

Table A20: Where are you currently living - area

	Area	Number
Newcastle	Benwell	15
	North Kenton	1
	Fenham	14
	Elswick	16
	Arthurs Hill	8
	Kenton	1
	Byker	3
	Walker	1
	Cruddas Park	1
	Byker/Walker	1
	Benwell/Elswick	1
Gateshead	Springwell	1
	Low Fell	1
	Bensham/Low Fell	1
	Felling	2
	Springwell estate	2
	Town centre	2
	Bensham	35
Total		106

Table A21: How long have you lived in this neighbourhood/area?

	Number	%
Less than a month	4	3.7
1 - 3 months	4	3.7
3 - 6 months	5	4.7
6 months - 1 year	9	8.4
1 - 2 years	10	9.3
2 - 3 years	12	11.2
3 - 5 years	13	12.1
5 - 7 years	7	6.5
7 - 10 years	10	9.3
10 - 15 years	9	8.4
15 - 20 years	6	5.6
Over 20 years	18	16.8
Total	107	100.0

Table A22: What type of accommodation are you currently living in?

	Number	%
Renting from the Council/Your Homes Newcastle	13	12.1
Renting from the Council/Gateshead Housing Company	8	7.5
Renting from a Housing Association	13	12.1
Renting from a Private Landlord	24	22.4
Owner Occupied	42	39.3
NASS Accommodation	2	1.9
Living with a friend or relative as a lodger	1	0.9
Living with Parents or Guardian	2	1.9
Other (non-homeless) situation	1	0.9
Bed and Breakfast Hotel	1	0.9
Total	107	100.0

Table A23: Who is responsible for the mortgage/rent/maintenance and repair of the property?

	Number	%
Respondent	53	65.4
Parents	2	2.5
Friends	1	1.2
Partner	15	18.5
Sibling	2	2.5
Son/daughter	3	3.7
NASS	1	1.2
Other member of family	4	4.9
Total	81	100.0
Unclear	22	
Missing	4	
Total	26	
	107	

Table A24: What type of property do you live in?

	Number	%
Detached house	4	3.7
Semi-detached house	21	19.6
Terraced house	41	38.3
Bungalow	1	0.9
High Rise Flat	7	6.5
Tyneside Flat	13	12.1
Other Flat	14	13.1
Maisonette	2	1.9
Other	4	3.7
Total	107	100.0

Table A25: How long have you been living in this property?

	Number	%
Less than a month	3	3.0
1 - 3 months	7	6.9
3 - 6 months	7	6.9
6 months - 1 year	7	6.9
1 - 2 years	14	13.9
2 - 3 years	12	11.9
3 - 5 years	13	12.9
5 - 7 years	6	5.9
7 - 10 years	10	9.9
10 - 15 years	9	8.9
15 - 20 years	5	5.0
Over 20 years	8	7.9
Total	101	100.0
Missing	6	
	107	

Table A26: How many bedrooms does this property have (incl. all rooms intended as bedrooms whether used as such or not)?

	Number	%
One bedroom	8	7.7
Two bedrooms	17	16.3
Three bedrooms	45	43.3
Four bedrooms	22	21.2
Five bedrooms	10	9.6
More than five bedrooms	2	1.9
Total	104	100.0
n/a	1	
Missing	2	
Total	3	
	107	

Table A27: Do you share this property with other people?

	Number	%
Yes	101	94.4
No	6	5.6
Total	107	100.0

Table A28: If you share this property with other people, how many?

	Number	%
0	3	2.9
1	16	15.2
2	13	12.4
3	22	21.0
4	19	18.1
5	13	12.4
6	7	6.7
7	6	5.7
8	5	4.8
9	1	1.0
Total	105	100.0
N/A	2	
	107	

Table A29: Gender of respondent

	Number	%
Male	43	41.0
Female	62	59.0
Total	105	100.0
Missing	2	
Total	2	
	107	

*Minority ethnic residential experiences and requirements in the Bridging
NewcastleGateshead area*

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